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December 2012

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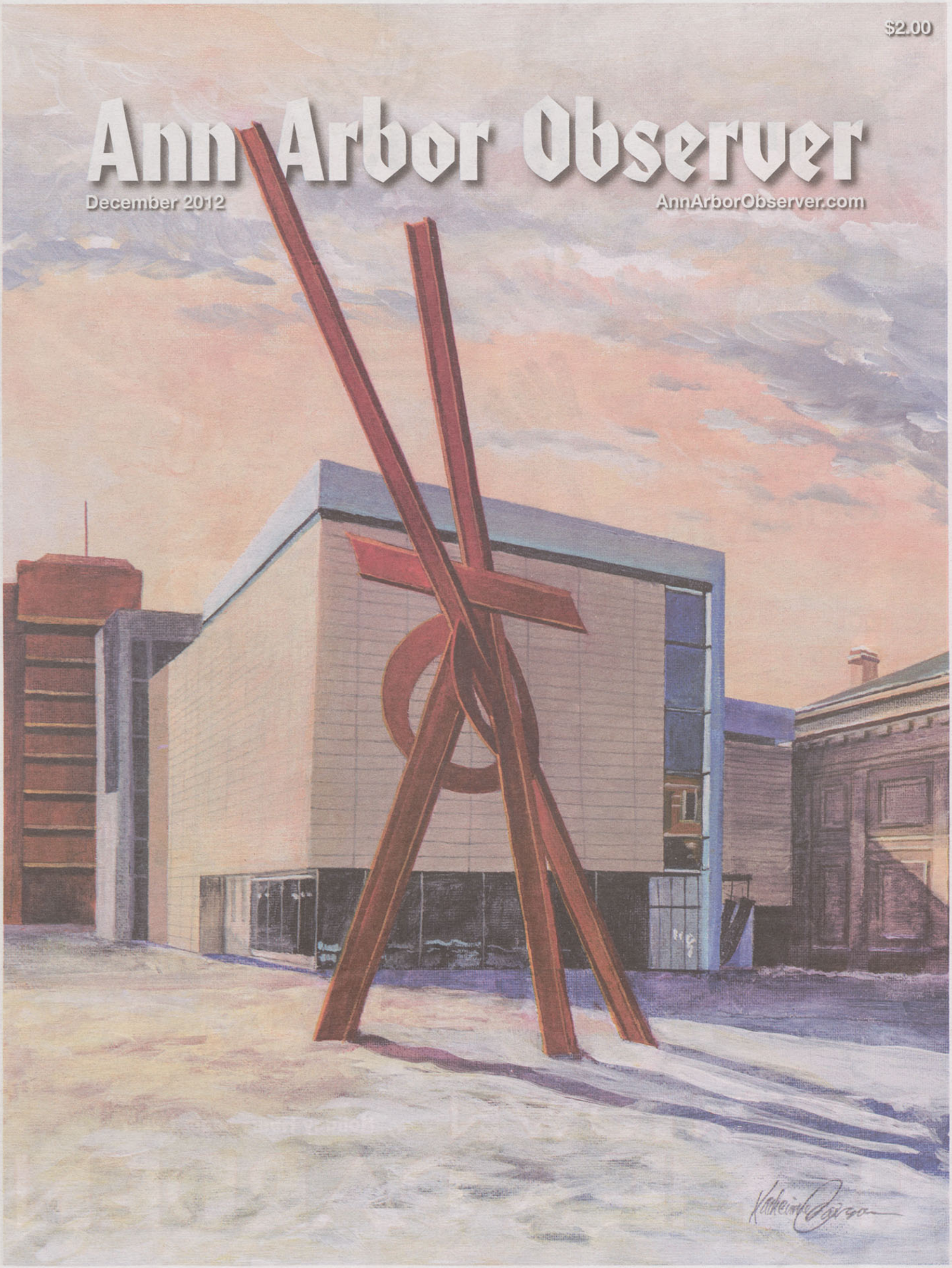

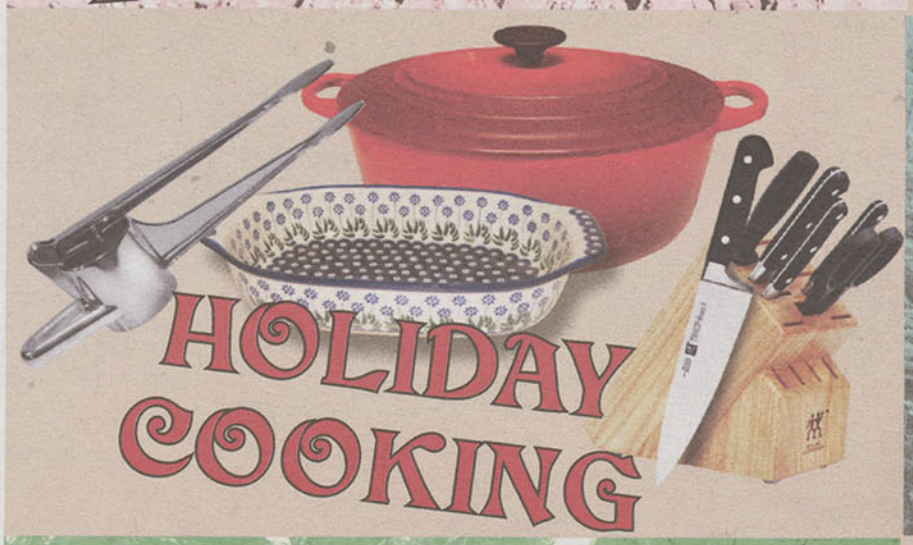

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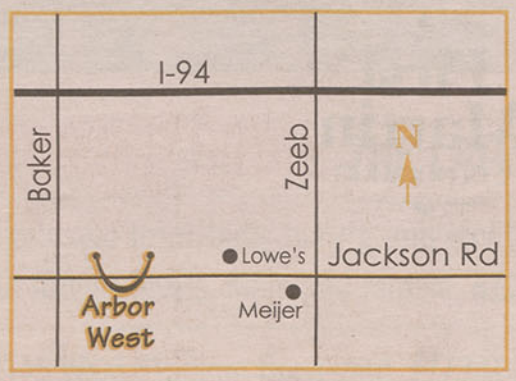

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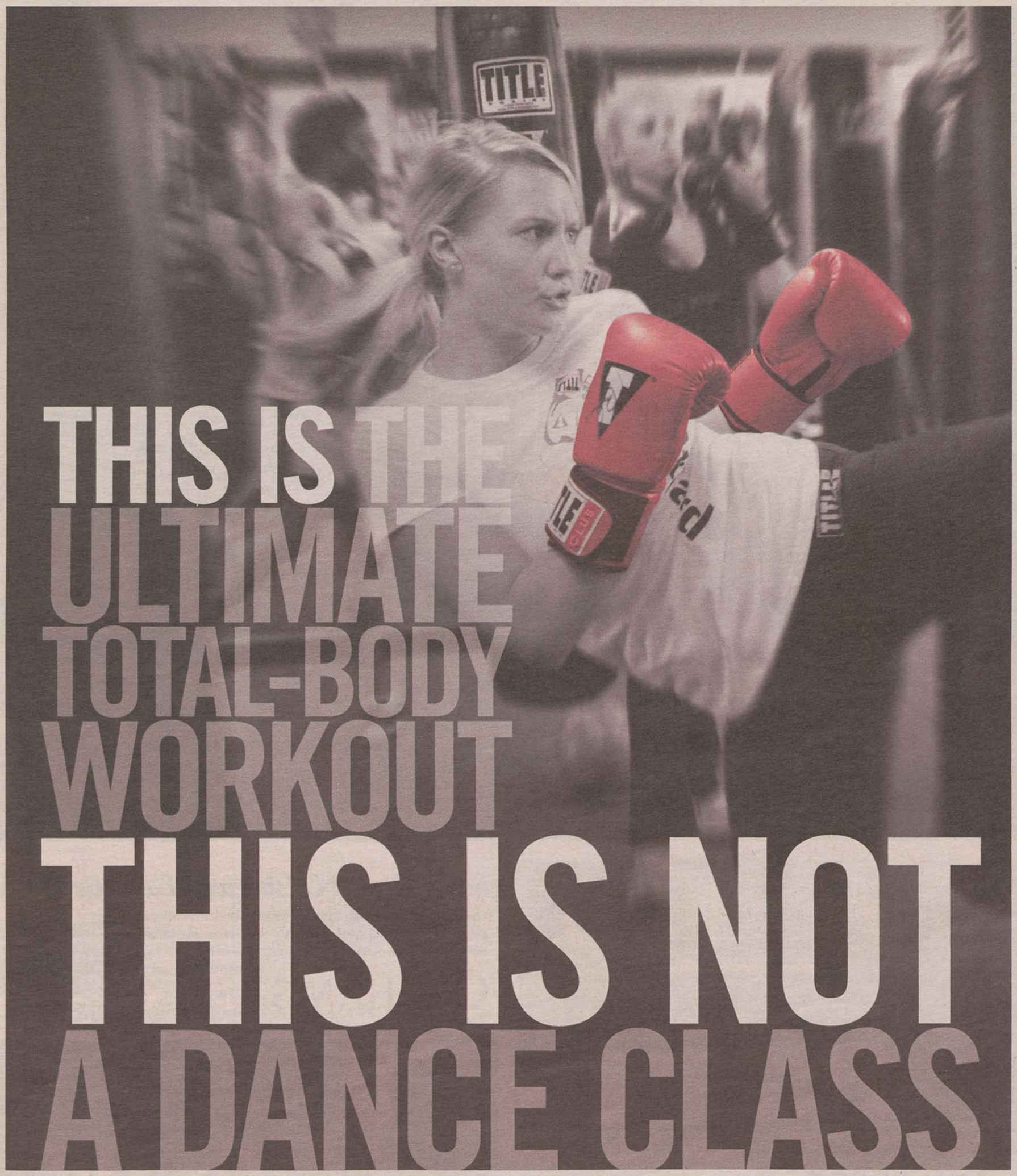

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Dec 14th– *Kerrytown Shops are open 'til 9pm for holiday shopping and fun. Come down and play the Kerrytown Chime this evening!*
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Ann Arbor Observer

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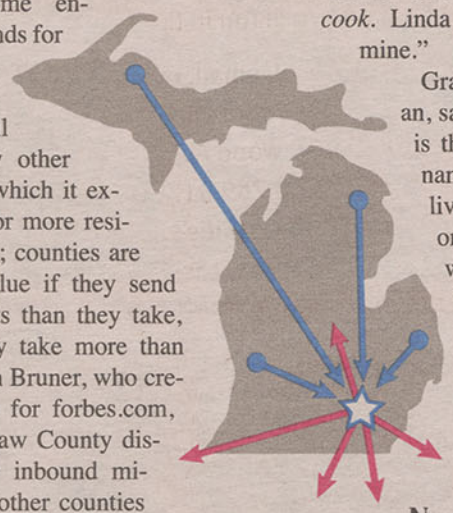
Michigan migration: An interactive map on *Forbes* magazine's website provides a fascinating picture of American migration over the past five years—including some encouraging trends for Ann Arbor. Clicking on a county will display every other county with which it exchanged ten or more residents in 2010; counties are highlighted blue if they send more migrants than they take, or red if they take more than they send. Jon Bruner, who created the map for forbes.com, says Washtenaw County displays healthy inbound migration from other counties around the state, as well as New York and Chicago. Outbound migrants head to many major metropolitan areas, including Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, and Dallas. "There are plenty of other places in the country where the rate of migratory exchange is just very low, and you don't see this massive pipeline to the tech industry in California and finance in New York," Bruner says.



Because the map is based on federal tax return data, it undercounts incoming U-M students and departing graduates. But according to Bruner, the U-M drives work-based migration as well: "You could relocate from Seattle to work at a University of Michigan center on computing research, but you could also relocate from Pontiac to a decent wage and a back office at the University of Michigan medical center."

Street language: Overheard at west-side polling places in November were pronunciations that infuriate Old West Siders: Lutz pronounced "lutts," Bach pronounced "bock," Revena pronounced "ravenna"—and all presumably by people who live in the neighborhood.

"Lutz is loots," born-and-bred west-sider Fran Wright (née Bigelow) explains, crisply: "Bach is baw, Revena is reveena, and I don't know what else there is to talk about!" She went to Bach school. "No one back then ever pronounced it *bock!* And another one is Koch—it's pronounced *cook*. Linda Koch was a classmate of mine."

Grace Shackman, a local historian, says that a hobbyhorse of hers is the change from Eber White, named after the farmer who lived west of Seventh, to the one-word Eberwhite. "There were lots of Whites," agrees Wright, "so they named the street Eber White to distinguish it from the others. The accent on Eber White is completely different from Eberwhite."

Neon revival: For years people walking by the Ann Arbor Bus Depot on West Huron shook their heads at its sad state of decay. Out-of-towners often thought it was no longer in use, while many townies assumed that the owner, Bill Martin, was too busy being U-M athletic director to worry about it. But over the last few months it has quietly undergone a $35,000 restoration bringing it back to its full Art Moderne glory. The marble and limestone facade has been cleaned and repointed, and the stainless steel on the sign and canopy cleaned. The lettering on the canopy and the background of the vertical sign has been painted, and the blue neon lettering repaired or replaced.

According to First Martin Corporation spokesman Bob Gates, the company bought the station about twenty years ago, along with the former gas station next door, now the Convention and Visitors Bureau, thinking they would eventually develop the property. Meanwhile they rented it to Greyhound, which was originally responsible for outside maintenance. A few years ago First Martin changed the lease to give the company responsibility for the facade, laying the groundwork for the restoration.

"Redeveloping the sites is still our long-term goal," says Gates. "We'd like to preserve the facade. The current [bus station] entrance will be the new [building] entrance."

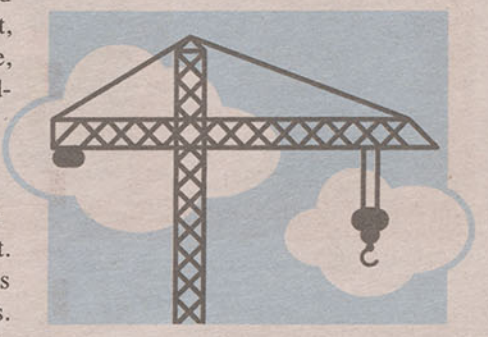
Bike care for the masses: Public bike maintenance equipment will help ease cyclists' commutes on the U-M campus this spring, thanks to grad student Arielle Fleisher. Fleisher, a student in the School of Public Health, spearheaded the plan to install a do-it-yourself bike repair stand at the Central Campus Transit Center, and air pumps at North Quad and Pierpont Commons. The $10,000 funding came from the university's new Planet Blue Student Innovation Fund.

The idea came from Fleisher's friend and project teammate Parrish Bergquist, who is also involved with Common Cycle, a volunteer group whose mission, according to its Facebook page, is "Getting more people biking by making it easier to keep your bike rolling." Fleisher says Common Cycle's emphasis on education and assistance carried over to this project. "We didn't want to just put these products in the ground and walk away," she says. During a "Bike Week" event last month, Fleisher's team stationed "bike ambassadors" to show riders how to use the tools. Fleisher is planning similar outreach for the spring, and she sees this project as the first of many. "It's giving community members the tools they need to be in charge of their commute," she says. "The more we can create a culture and an infrastructure that supports this, the better we're going to be."

Crane climb: Builder Joe O'Neal says he was "mad for a minute" to learn that the New York City marathon was cancelled in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy. He was already in the city, ready to run the marathon for his twenty-fifth time. Then he realized, "I'm the luckiest person in the world." O'Neal is a lifelong sidewalk (and real-life) construction superintendent (see p. 25), and his hotel room had a perfect view of one of the storm's signature disasters: "You know that crane that came down? We were the closest living things to that crane!"

A week later, with O'Neal back in Ann Arbor, the Washtenaw Fire Rescue team climbed one of the two cranes on the site of the Ann Arbor City Apartments. Long planned, the drill seemed even more timely after Sandy. The team members were climbing in full gear, pretending to rescue a man up in the high cabin. "That's what makes it really hard," the supervisor explained from the ground. "It's like climbing up fourteen stories. I'd rather [fight] eighteen fires than climb up there."

Neighbor Mark Hodesh felt completely the opposite. "I thought it would be cool,"



says the owner of Downtown Home & Garden. So after getting permission from O'Neal Construction's site superintendent, Hodesh also climbed the taller crane.

Days later, Hodesh was still telling people about his adventure. "It's just going up a lot of ladders in a row," he says. "Then you push through a little metal trap door, and you're there."

Hodesh adds that the "Number One question" people have is: "Where do they go to the bathroom?"

"They carry a can," says Hodesh, smiling. ■

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Bus Stop

The proposed countywide transit authority made its final stop in November.

The public vote on the Ann Arbor District Library bond drew more heat (see p. 23), but financially the stakes on the transit plan were far higher: as much as $465 million to build "multimodal" bus and rail systems plus $52 million a year to run them.

In March, Ann Arbor City Council voted seven to four to move forward with the plan. In November, it voted unanimously to back out. Why the abrupt reversal?

"Everybody else opted out," explains councilmember and transit supporter Sabra Briere. With twenty-three of twenty-eight Washtenaw County municipalities choosing not to take part, council felt it had little choice but to follow suit.

So why the chilly reception elsewhere? "I suspect," says Briere, "the townships felt really pressured to make a decision quickly. There were some missteps here and there about communication."

Briere refers to two sets of letters sent to the county's townships in October, one from the AATA and the other from the county, each setting a different opt-out deadline. Additionally, the AATA, which had long planned to move its current board members to the new countywide authority, had recently learned that, legally, new board members would need to be appointed—leaving current AATA members without a position.

The plan's sharpest critic, councilmember Stephen Kunselman, thinks "misstep" is too polite a word for the demise of a project that's consumed three years and $700,000 in federal planning grants. "It's called incompetence," Kunselman says. "This shows how mismanaged and incompetent the AATA administration was in trying to promote countywide transit. They didn't know what they were doing."

Whatever they're called, though, the confusing communications don't appear to be responsible for the plan's sudden death. Out-county leaders say they rejected the plan because they didn't see enough value in the five-year, $281-million first phase to justify the cost.

"When it came down to it, the amount of service it provided to Ann Arbor Township did not justify the millage request," says township supervisor Michael Moran. Though the plan envisioned tapping federal and state grants for capital costs, residents would have been asked to approve a half-mill property tax to underwrite the system's operation.

Scio Township supervisor Spaulding Clark says he had reservations about the transition from the AATA to a new authority, but the question of value was also key in his community's decision to opt out.

With so many municipalities unwilling to pay for the carefully crafted plan, the question now is, "Was it all a waste?"

MARK BIALEK

Pressed to commit to countywide transit, most governments opted out.

Kunselman certainly thinks so, calling for a change in the leadership of the AATA board, and referring to the ordeal as "a huge political failure on Mayor Hieftje's part."

But others see more of a silver lining.

"We're looking at this as an opportunity," says Jim Carson, trustee for the village of Dexter and president of the WAVE bus system. "The WAVE is going to take that knowledge [gathered from meetings on the countywide plan], and we know what steps we need to take. We are looking at a way to double our Community Connector" service between Chelsea, Dexter, and Ann Arbor.

Though the planned authority is no more, council's resolution to opt out also asked AATA to continue pursuing regional transit. Along with Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Dexter, and Saline are still thought to be supportive of some kind of regional mass transit. But what a new plan might look like, says Carson, is up in the air.

"Ideally, I think it should look exactly like the plan they already came up with, but we have to figure out how we would fund that. It's all dollars," he says. "That is going to be the challenge. I don't know if anybody can tell you the best way to do that."

Not yet, anyway, but it's at the top of AATA's to-do list.

Going forward, all planning and funding options are open, says AATA's Michael Benham. "Given all of the materials we have, we should not have to reinvent the wheel."

Basketball Blessings

U-M basketball coach John Beilein has an unusual problem this year: too much talent.

Beilein has four proven players returning, and two of these, point guard Trey Burke and swing player Tim Hardaway Jr., have NBA potential. Senior Matt Vogrich (swing) and center Jordan Morgan (a redshirt junior) are also back. Add talented center Jon Horford, out last year with an injury, redshirt power forward Max Bielfeldt, and senior center Blake McLimans, and Michigan looks like a reasonably veteran team.

But the big news is Beilein's recruiting class. For most of the coach's career he has found players under rocks, building winning teams around players like Zack Novak, Stu Douglass, and Jordan Morgan that no one else wanted. This year, Michigan has, many experts believe, one of the strongest two or three incoming classes in the country. The Wolverines' combination of youth and experience earned them their highest preseason ranking in decades—top fifteen in the country in all polls, and top five in some.

Mitch McGary, a bruising six-foot-ten center, may be the headliner. McGary is from Chesterton, Indiana, Zack Novak's hometown. He plays with Novak's intensity and passion—but, unlike Novak, everyone wanted McGary. Michigan beat Duke, North Carolina, and Kentucky for a player rated as high as number two in the country by recruiting services. Beilein also brings in Nik Stauskas, a six-foot-six Canadian with an excellent shooting stroke, a nice crossover move, and the ability to dish it in traffic. And then there's McGary's former AAU teammate, Glenn Robinson III. Robinson, son of former Purdue and NBA great Glenn (Big Dog) Robinson, is a six-foot-six forward with incredible athletic and jumping ability and a rounded game. Robinson, who finished his senior season as the number-eleven player in the country according to one rating service, will be a primary element in this year's team.

In the spring it looked like Burke, after his surprising and excellent freshman year, would jump to the NBA. That would have left Michigan without a point guard—at a time when all the obvious candidates had signed letters of intent with other schools. At this juncture Glenn III, McGary, and their crusty AAU coach, Wayne Brumm, recommended Spike Albrecht, a diminutive point guard who had played with McGary and Robinson

BRYAN FULLER

Michigan stocked up on talent when it looked like Trey Burke might turn pro—only to be pleasantly surprised when he came back for another year.

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on Brumm's team. Albrecht had no other offers, but in his first game this fall, an exhibition against Northern Michigan—with Burke sidelined for an unspecified disciplinary violation—he put up sixteen points and handed out six assists with only two turnovers.

The final addition to Beilein's freshman class came in May, when he signed Caris LeVert, a six-foot-five shooting guard from Pickerington, Ohio. This was an out-of-the-blue event even for those closely following the program. LeVert was a very late bloomer but by the end of his senior year was generally considered the best player in Ohio. Still, a redshirt is predicted.

That would still leave Beilein with plenty to puzzle over. At center (and power forward) he has to find minutes for Morgan, McGary, and Horford. Add in Bielfeldt and McLimans and the puzzle becomes more complex, particularly when exhibition games showed that Glenn III needed to be on the court, in either the small or big forward spot. Point guard poses little complication—Burke plays, Albrecht gives him a blow—but the two guard and small forward positions pose the same issues as do the bigs. Hardaway is the returning star and a key to the coming season, but Stauskas, Glenn III, and senior Vogrich will compete for playing time.

The players seem to have a positive attitude about this. Their message, in the words of walk-on Josh Bartelstein, is "Yeah, we all compete on the court, but off the court, we support each other. There aren't any jealousies here." Stauskus reinforced this, telling the *Free Press* that there is "no ego, no drama" on the team.

One would think that the playing time dilemma, coupled with this year's high expectations, might make the coach nervous. But there was no sign of it at the team's media day in October: while reporters clustered around Hardaway, Burke, and their teammates, Beilein wandered the expansive floor of the new Player Development Center—tracking the St. Louis Cardinals playoff game on his cell phone.

More Better Pot

High-end medical marijuana means more potent street pot.

"It's the best dope I've had in years," says an anonymous local pothead. "The first time I smoked it, I laughed and laughed and laughed."

He's not the only satisfied customer. For years, Ann Arbor's dopers have put up with a steady diet of fair-to-middling weed only occasionally supplemented by high-end varieties. That changed this past spring when brands like Apollo 13, Purple Haze, and Northern Lights appeared on the market. Though it retails for double the old pot's price, the designer crop "killed the regular pot market big time," says an anonymous wholesaler. "Certain people get their hands on that, and they don't want to go back to the regular stuff anymore."

The wholesaler credits the upgrade to spillover from the state's medical marijuana dispensaries. "You've got all these [suppliers] growing ass-loads of pot [for the dispensaries]. Their overages, they sell to buy lights, bulbs, equipment, or for personal expenses. There's a lot of them making quite a few extra bucks."

An anonymous retailer confirms that local dopers have embraced the high-end stuff. "I was surprised when I first got it at how well it moved. I was amazed people would pay the price. But people who got used to the high end would wait rather than go back to the everyday wine."

The retailer is not overly impressed by the new varieties himself but acknowledges there are marked differences. "It's not twice as good, but it's like distinguishing between wines. The high-end pots are almost all designed to have certain kinds of effects. Some are more of a head buzz; others are more of a body buzz. I stay away from it myself. I need stuff that will allow me to get things done."

The upgrade hasn't been an unmitigated boon for sellers. Business has "gone up a little bit" since their arrival, says the retailer, but "my revenue hasn't changed a whole lot." Though retail prices have doubled, wholesale prices have gone up even more. "I make a little bit less [now]," the seller says. "I'm not a big expert at retail, but I know enough to know you don't pass along too much of the price increase."

Asked about the high-end pot and its connection to the suppliers of medical marijuana, city attorney Stephen Postema says: "I don't know anything about that, and I don't think about it. We don't prosecute for medical marijuana here, and we haven't for years."

Assistant city attorney Bob West confirms that the situation is nearly the same for non-medical marijuana. He can recall only two times in the last five years that possession of non-medical marijuana has resulted even in a formal court hearing—and then only because the users contested tickets received under the city's lenient marijuana law.

Digitizing Memories

"It's like opening a Christmas gift," says Rob Hoffman.

Recently, Mitch Rosenwasser, executive director of the U-M's Camp Michigania, handed Hoffman a box of 16 mm movies taken at Michigan's summer retreat at Walloon Lake. Rosenwasser wanted Hoffman's company, Priceless Photo Preservation, to digitize the movies for use in an online exhibit. "They've never been seen," says Hoffman. "They don't have a 16 mm projector."

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MARK BIALEK

Archivists-for-hire Hanna Stelman and Rob Hoffman found "amazing stuff" at U-M Property Disposition.

era is PPP's mission. "We see ourselves as archivists for hire," says Hoffman, who founded the company last year with help from fellow U-M School of Information grads Hanna Stelman and Eric Hansen.

It's a new career path for Hoffman, forty-seven. He started life as a journalist, most recently as a sports reporter for the *Ann Arbor News,* but took a buyout as the paper shed its old hands. He did some soul searching, couldn't find work, and took classes at WCC, then at SI. Two years ago, he spent a summer digitizing old records in the basement of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, turning, as he put it, "boxes and boxes of crap into *foie gras*." Then fate stepped in.

Chuck Newman, founder of Dexter phone recycler ReCellular, called SI prof Victor Rosenberg, to ask if he knew of anyone who could archive and digitize all of his family slides, photos, and tapes. Rosenberg suggested posting the project on the school's job board. "By luck, I saw it, and sent [Newman] some things," Hoffman recalls. "He called me within three hours."

Hoffman dove into the project as soon as he finished his SI degree, and continued on and off for "six or seven months," working out of his home. "I started the company as I was doing it," he says. Newman had "photos, slides, movies—basically the whole gamut. I learned as I went along."

While he was archiving Newman's collection, Hoffman says, he realized "this could be a service a lot of people would love to have." He also realized that "I can't do it alone. Since the job market is pretty bad for librarians and archivists, he had no problem finding two unemployed SI grads and turning them into partners—Stelman and Hansen, a generation younger than Hoffman, work from their homes, too (Stelman in Ann Arbor, Hansen in Grand Rapids).

The charges are pretty much a la carte—a little like a car wash, in that the basic slide scan, for example, is 75¢ per slide, for a little more attention and cleanup it's $1.05, and for the spit-shine clean, the premier package, it's $1.95. Scrapbooks are about a dollar a page to scan, and VHS-to-DVD is $35 for the first two hours and $15 per hour after that.

Hoffman watches each tape as it runs, to make sure there isn't an episode of *Taxi* or an old scratchy Jane Fonda workout in the middle—if there is, they can cut it out, for an additional fee.

"I never went to library school to learn to launch a business," says Hoffman. "We used the money from our initial jobs to basically start the company. We did a lot of things on the cheap initially. University Property Disposition has absolutely amazing stuff. We happened to find a collection of the best scanners available, dirt cheap."

One woman gave Hoffman about three or four hundred slides she wanted digitized for her sons as a birthday present. "I was dreading it—dreading it," says Hoffman, "because it was obvious she had one of those really cheap 35 mm cameras. Remember those? They have no real focus, so you had blurry photos, you had photos without people. They want the cream of the cream, and we want them to be happy."

He scanned the slides, and brought the DVD to her house. "We put it on and started watching it. The words started pouring out of her. 'Oh I remember this!' she said. Listening to her [he realized] how much it all meant to her. They might have been the crappiest photos in the world, but they were moments in time that she remembered very vividly and cherished enormously.

"It made me realize that no matter the [visual] quality, these are all precious parts of people's lives," says Hoffman. "We often hear stories about people who have fires in their homes. What do they save first? It ain't their plasma TV. It ain't their laptop. It's all their photos."

calls & letters

United Way helps Community Dental

"Many thanks for a wonderful, wonderful article," emailed Community Dental Center director Bonita Neighbors (Ann Arborites, November). "My mother was smiling from ear to ear." But Neighbors noted that our list of the center's funders omitted a major supporter: the United Way of Washtenaw County.

MLive's founding editor

In our November story on the Center for Michigan's bridgemi.com, we mistakenly described center president John Bebow as the "founding editor" of MLive.com. "I was hired by [founding president] Mark Hauptschein to be MLive's founding editor," emails Dave Farrell. "I hired John and others to round out the editorial team. John did, indeed, take over as editor-in-chief after I left 18 months or so after we launched the Web site."

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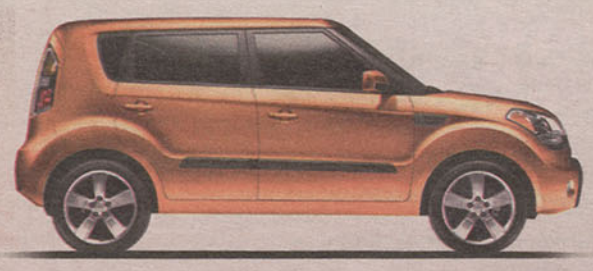

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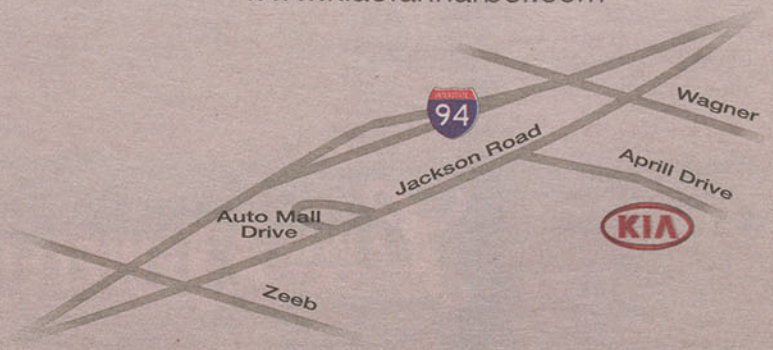

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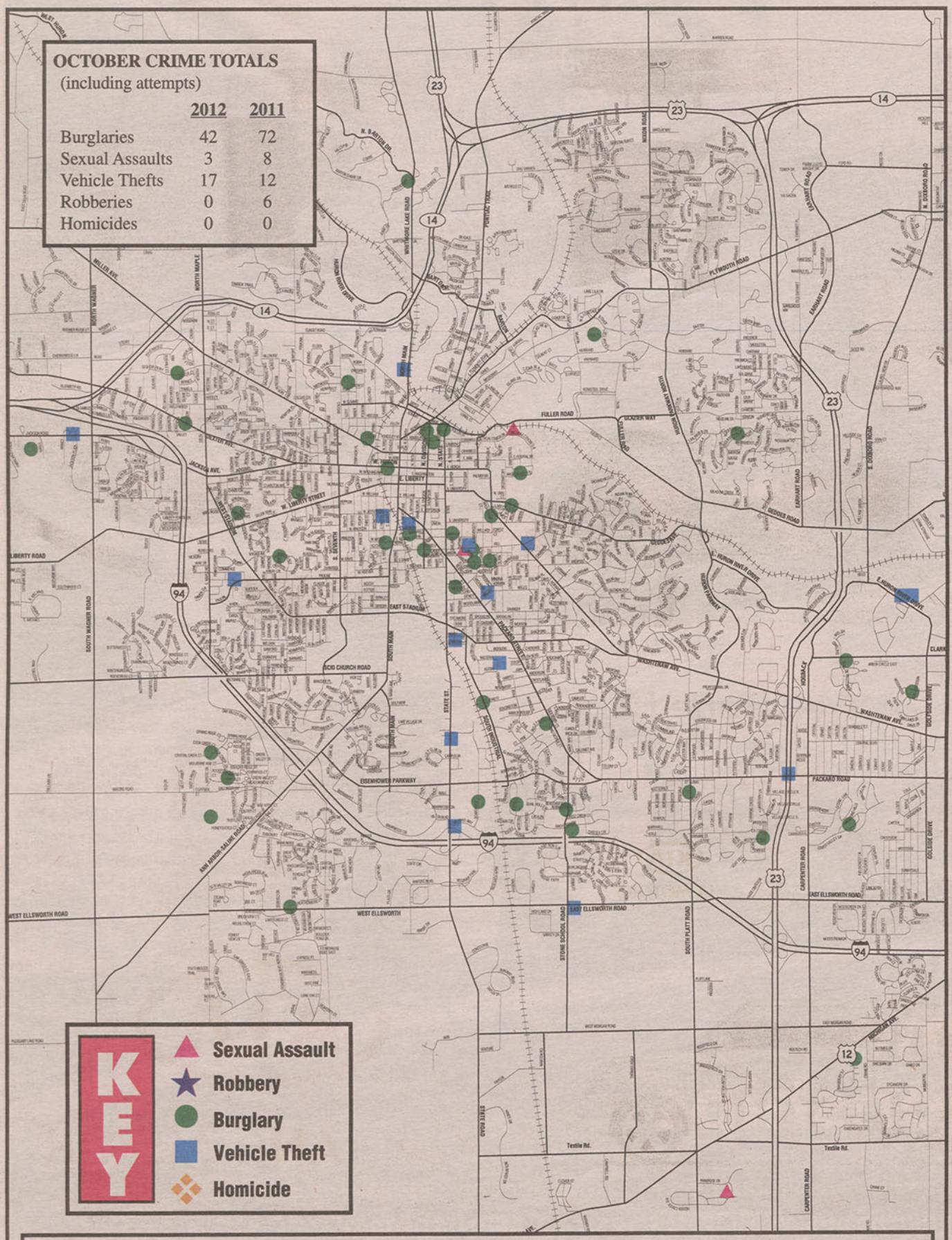

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **October 2012.** Placement is approximate.

The Ann Arbor and Pittsfield departments have moved to a centralized record-keeping system run by crimemapping.com. As a result, they no longer are able to distinguish crimes from attempts, or sexual assaults by acquaintances from assaults by strangers.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **944–1238 in Pittsfield.** If you have questions about a crime shown here, call **Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994–8775, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.),** the **U-M Department of Public Safety (763–1131),** or the **Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944–4911).**

The box at the top of the map compares the number of crimes reported in October 2012 and October 2011.

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Jason McKnight

Bringing Latin to life

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

In his blue hoodie and jean overalls, Jason McKnight blends right in with his twenty-nine Latin One students. But though his manner is as cheerful as his style is casual, McKnight is clearly in control of this early-morning class at Community High School.

"What do the words 'despair' and 'inspiration' and the state of South Carolina have in common?" he asks. Answering his own question, he leads the class through the Latin words *spiro* (I breathe) and *spero* (I hope) to the Palmetto State's motto—*Dum Spiro Spero*—"While I breathe, I hope." Despite detours along the way for comparisons with cognates in Spanish and French—and the early hour—the class is mostly quiet and wholly engaged.

McKnight jokes as he takes them through Latin verbs, and the kids laugh. He tells the Oedipus story, and they groan at the thought of marrying their moms. And he concludes by telling them that if they don't learn their Latin verbs at home, they'll be learning them in class for the rest of the semester.

"My job is to teach you Latin and I will do that," he says seriously. "I'd rather talk about fun things that make us more interesting people, but one way or another, I *will* teach you Latin."

Before McKnight took Latin, he didn't even expect to go to college.

"I grew up in Alpena, and I grew up poor," the thirty-eight-year-old teacher explains after school. A big man with a goatee and a nearly shaved head, he looks like a Muppet version of Simon "Shaun of the Dead" Pegg. "I was always interested in Latin—the myths and the heroes—but the first time I signed up, not enough other students did, so it didn't happen. I tried again senior year, and this time it did.

"I was a reader," continues McKnight. "But that was as far as I thought I'd go in school. After I graduated, I was looking forward to forty hours a week at the Big Boy as a line chef. That was my big ambition.

"Then about a month into classes, the Latin teacher asked me where I was going to college, and I said I wasn't going to college. He said he thought I should try, and he helped me fill out the U-M application and wrote me a letter of recommendation."

The teacher was Michael Brinkman—who, coincidentally, moved to Ann Arbor himself in retirement. "He was a wonderful student," remembers Brinkman. "Of course, he had long hair, but he was a mannerly, respectful, and dedicated student. And he was hungry for knowledge. He took Latin and just fell in love with the language."

McKnight's mom and dad weren't regularly employed. "We had the basics," he remembers, "but we didn't have a lot of stuff like my friends." Though his dad, a Vietnam War veteran, wasn't involved much with his son before that, he made a point of dropping him off at college.

"In retrospect, I guess it was out of pride and not an overwhelming desire to rid himself of me," recalls McKnight in an email. "We drove down from Alpena and he unloaded my stuff onto the sidewalk in front of Couzens dorm in 1992. Then he surprised me by pulling out a camera and snapping a photo of the occasion.

"Neither parent spent any money on college for me. I cobbled together enough loans and scholarships to pay the big bills and then I worked 30–40 hours a week at restaurants, bars, coffee shops, and bakeries throughout my five years to pay for living expenses.

"Teaching seemed like a natural step after I decided to commit to Latin, so I applied to the School of Ed for my junior year." He graduated in 1997, and landed his first job in a little town called Ardmore, in Oklahoma. "Let's just say I didn't see eye to eye with the administration," McKnight says, "so I resigned and moved back here to be with the love of my life."

That would be Chelsi McKnight, whom he met at a party in East Lansing when he was at Michigan and she was at Michigan State. After leaving Oklahoma, he joined her in Lansing, where he subbed for a year. Then, in 2002, he was hired at Community, "where I really wanted to be."

Since McKnight arrived, the number of CHS students taking Latin has risen by a third. With ninety-six students this year, he has almost one in five kids at Community learning the language—much to the delight of his own former teacher.

"I was absolutely astounded and delighted that he became a Latin teacher," says Brinkman. "He's a gift to his students."

With his wife teaching hearing-impaired students at Tappan Middle School and their two daughters Penelope and Anabel currently in pre-school and first grade at Thurston, the whole family is now in the Ann Arbor school district. "It's nice to have close colleagues teach our kids," McKnight says. "We take education seriously in our family."

His avocations include hunting and reading—"history, fantasy, fiction, whatever I can get my hands on. I'm currently reading Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* series—and I'm not finished, so don't spoil it for me!" He aspires to be an author himself, and he emphasizes that knowing Latin has helped his own writing: "After I had my 'Latin breakthrough,' which occurred in Latin 231, I finally understood how to write," he emails. "I always tell my students that Latin is the reason I get As on papers."

The "dead language" seems very alive to McKnight. "Some of the greatest people in the history of mankind were Romans: Caesar, Cicero, and my favorite, Marcus Aurelius, a true philosopher king."

Nor is McKnight satisfied teaching just a fifth of his school's students. "I would love to see Latin required. I know it's a pipe dream, but Latin changed the course of my ship, and I'd like to see it afforded to as many people as possible."

—James Leonard

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ANDY DAILY

Hockey Mom

Friday nights at Vets

I lug my heavy hockey bag into the locker room at Veterans Memorial Ice Arena on a Friday evening and join a few of my teammates who are already suiting up. Once I strap on my pads, lace up my skates, and secure my helmet, a glimpse in the mirror reveals a fierce masked competitor, but inside is a nervous novice. I just started chasing my hockey dreams at age forty-two, and tonight's my first game. If it weren't for my supportive teammates and MACRHL (Michelle and Camille's Recreational Hockey League)—a women-only learn-as-you-play league—I wouldn't have the guts to try.

Growing up in Minnesota, I longed to be an athlete. I had the height and the drive but not much skill. My hopes for sports glory were crushed freshman year of high school when I was cut from the volleyball team. Instead, I huffed and puffed through four years of cross-country. "You always tried so hard," my mom says. By my thirties I'd joined the masses of moms in yoga and Jazzercise classes. But something was missing: a real team, a new skill, a release for some midlife angst.

When my oldest son took up hockey, I was intrigued. I started going to open skates with him. Although I was never much of a skater, inhaling that icy air refreshed me and somehow connected me to my Nordic roots and winters spent cross-country skiing as a child. During a cardio-dance class at the Cube, I spied the USA women's hockey team on the ice practicing for a game against Canada. They whizzed by, controlling the puck with ease, a blur through the dance studio's window. I was transfixed. I yearned to be that strong, that confident, and that skilled.

After several months of adult skating lessons at Vets and a visit to a MACRHL game, I thought I was ready to give hockey a try—but I wimped out that first season. After some nudging from my fearless friend Marci, we registered for the second season—and now, the first game has arrived (there are no practices).

I'm assigned to play winger. Within a couple minutes I careen into an opposing player and flatten her, I commit an offside violation, and the ref skates over to the team manager to let her know I'm using the wrong stick (I have no idea that I "shoot left"). By the end of the game, I'm spitting out chunks of my plastic mouth guard, which I've chewed to pieces in a bad case of the nerves. When I exit the locker room after the game, a sweaty mess, my kids are sitting in a row on a bench in the lobby. All three are shaking their heads. "Oh well," my middle son says, "they say first is worst, right?"

Look at me drinking a beer with my sweaty teammates at CUBS' AC. There I am getting my skates sharpened at Play It Again Sports. Here I am checking out a book on "How to Play Like the Pros" at the library. And that's me on the couch watching the NHL playoffs.

But I don't give up easily—and I follow direction well. My manager instructs: "The puck is not a hot potato! Go out there and hold onto that puck for at least five seconds." And I do. "Both hands on the stick, lady!" she yells. And I listen. There are so many skills at work—skating, passing, shooting, and strategy. The learning curve is steep. I learn that taking risks pays off.

I practice at U-M's Yost Ice Arena and some guys ask me to join them for a three-on-three scrimmage. Mostly they skate circles around me, but the intensity of their game unleashes a new aggression in me, and I bring it to my next MACRHL game. In the locker room afterward, my teammates present me with the "Balls Out Award"—two street hockey balls. Although there's zero tolerance for checking—or rough play—in MACRHL, playing hard with a competitive spirit is encouraged. Skating hard and breathlessly after that puck becomes a form of therapy.

I may not be able to do a smooth crossover, and I can't skate backward well, but I'm an official hockey player! Look at me drinking a beer with my sweaty teammates at CUBS' AC. There I am getting my skates sharpened at Play It Again Sports. Here I am checking out a book on "How to Play Like the Pros" at the library. And that's me on the couch watching the NHL playoffs. Soon, my fan base expands from my family to some neighbors who come to watch a game.

And then, a month into the season, during an 11 p.m. game, I score my first goal. Jenny passes to me, and in slow motion I sink it into the net—and then fall backward over the goalie. When I look up, three of my teammates are pumping their fists in the air. In MACRHL, one's first goal is celebrated, and the game puck is autographed by teammates with a Sharpie. It's now on my dresser next to my two balls.

My husband is mostly silent about my newest venture, but he does notice one thing: the Advil is disappearing quickly from the medicine cabinet. When my doctor notices some black-and-blue marks during a routine checkup, I assure her I'm a hockey player and it comes with the job—the pads don't cover everything. She asks about joining, and I jot down the contact info for the league.

Marci and I are now well into our second season. This time we're members of the Orange Bellied Piranhas. We have grad students, middle-aged moms, and several highly skilled fifty-somethings on our team. Sure, we've already lost more games than we've won, but I don't care. I'm having fun. My kids still come to some of my games. When they're grown, I hope they remember Friday nights at Vets. They may giggle at the memory, but I hope they also remember a mother who wasn't afraid to fall, who tried to make each shift better than her last, and who never gave up on her dreams.

—Shelley Daily

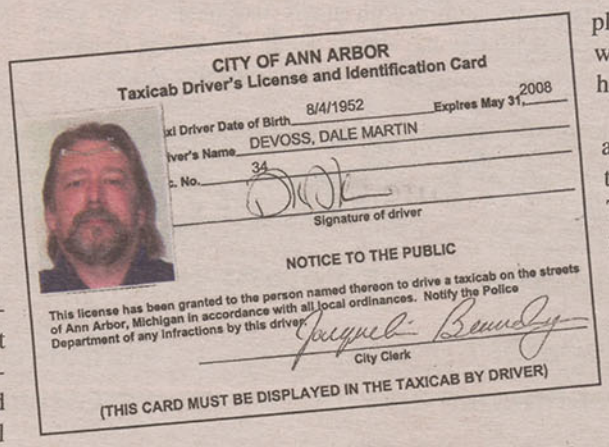
Circles

A wreck on I-94

This is a story about circles, or cycles, if you prefer. It starts at the end of the road, but as one road ends, another begins.

It was just before Christmas 2007. After twenty-five or so years in management in the automotive world, I had been driving a cab for three-and-a-half years. I had an early day, starting at 5 a.m. It was still dark half an hour later, when I got the order to take someone to the airport—ASAP. I drove to the address in a freezing drizzle.

It was a student heading home. Looking haggard, she explained that she'd had late exams, and with all the stress had also caught a cold. I swept her away, and we chatted amiably about the upcoming holidays.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Despite the horrible weather, the drive was going along nicely—until we got to the I-94–US-23 interchange. Then, all hell broke loose.

There was a horrible metallic sound, a wave of ice and snow, and then another vehicle crashed into my cab, slamming it against a bridge abutment. The airbag exploded and I gripped the wheel with a death hold. I felt totally helpless.

In a matter of seconds, it was all over. My cab was stopped in the middle lane of the highway. The smell of burning electricity and fuel filled the chilly air. I turned to my passenger. She was badly shaken up but said she was OK. The fleece I had on was smoldering; I put it out, then called my dispatcher. He would call a tow truck for the cab and another taxi to pick up my passenger.

Standing among the wreckage and backed-up traffic, I could hear the faint sounds of emergency vehicles approaching. Another damaged car was in the ditch. The driver told me that a car apparently lost control on a patch of black ice, struck him, and pushed his car into mine.

The whole scene now was like a movie set, with lights flashing and voices yelling. A cab from another company came by in the now-long line of neck stretchers. He asked my passenger if she wanted to go with him on to the airport. She was anxious to get on her way, so I wished her well and retrieved her bag from the trunk. With tears coming down her cheek, she gave me a $20 bill and told me, "I hope things work out for you." A sweet angel in the horror of that moment.

It is a fact that you are eight times more likely to be in an accident if you drive a cab. The experience shook me to the point that I put away my cab license for good. Against a nightmarish backdrop of wrecked metal, sirens, flashing lights, and freezing drizzle, one phase of my life was finished.

Since then, I've published a short story and a novel. I have two more I'll be putting on the market next spring.

I still have a day job, working for a progressive recycling facility, but I feel that I have come full circle. I am sure that there will still be new roads ahead, but I am looking forward to the journey.

—Dale DeVoss

The Joy of Apheresis

A holiday stress buster at the Red Cross

QUESTION: What *non*-activity provides a near-perfect getaway? A solid block of time to catch up on your pulp fiction, review for a test, or see that movie that got the rave reviews but you missed while you were preparing for midterms or that big presentation the boss dropped on you.

When was the last time you indulged in a megadose of daydreaming? Are you a mental planner? Get all the ducks' d'tails in a row once and for all. And all of it guilt free!

I take this vacation attended by lovely folks who make sure I'm comfortable, offering chilled juices and water as well as cookies, crackers, or pretzels to nibble. As an added bonus I get a mini physical—*free*. At the end not only are there no regrets, but the thanks and appreciation just don't stop. And they are sincere.

I've discovered the joy of apheresis. According to Wikipedia:

> ***Apheresis*** *(Greek: "to take away") is a medical technology in which the blood of a donor or patient is passed through an apparatus that separates out one particular constituent and returns the remainder to the circulation.*

Once a month, I schedule a visit to the local Red Cross on Packard. When I arrive, I quickly read the guidelines to confirm I haven't been exposed to any diseases or medications that would make me ineligible to donate—it's critical that the Red Cross collect only safe blood. Next they confirm that I am healthy, taking vital signs and hematocrit (iron levels). Finally I'm taken to one of four stations where the chair or bed is adjusted till I'm comfortable. Pillows, heating pad, and blankets are added as needed. There's a personal DVD player—if you forget to bring your own video, they have a selection of fifty or so to choose from.

Then the magic starts. My personal attending nurse prepares the machine, and, with the most insignificant needle poke, I'm hooked up. That's it. An hour to two hours later, depending on what the magic computer says I can give, I am disconnected, encouraged to have more drinks and snacks before leaving, and treated in general like a queen.

There is so much need in our world. Most of us will never be able to give like Bill Gates or inspire like Gandhi. But this is one way I can give to someone who needs it, something I'm so grateful to have: healthy blood. It's painless, free, and, unlike a financial contribution, I'll never miss it.

—Chris Russo

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Drop-in Hockey and Sticks & Pucks
Adult residents: $6; adult non-resident, $7. Youth/Senior residents: $5; youth/senior non-resident, $6.

MON: 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (drop-in women only); 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. (drop-in men only 18+)

TUE: 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. (sticks and pucks all ages)
9 to 10 p.m. (drop-in men only)

WED: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (drop-in all ages)

TH: 9 to 10 p.m. (drop-in all ages)

SAT: 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. (drop-in all ages)

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Whose Library Is It Anyway?

Despite a tenacious campaign, Ann Arborites voted not to build a new downtown library. The decline of print media, an increasingly suspicious electorate, and a woman haunted by a dream all played a role.

by Eve Silberman

Opposition to the $65 million bond issue bubbled up in unexpected places. One fan of the 1957 building (above) kept a vigil out front. Persuading voters to replace an outwardly sound building was a challenge for supporters—and so was the changing nature of libraries.

On election night, Ann Arbor District Library director Josie Parker didn't join the supporters gathered at the Real Seafood Company to watch the outcome of the vote on a new downtown library. Instead, she groomed her two horses while her husband came by with updates. When the bad news was announced, Parker, not one to wear her emotions on her sleeve, says only, "I was disappointed."

And so ended one of the most heated—and interesting—battles over a beloved local institution the city has seen. The "no" voters included people who had never voted for a tax increase, people who had until now always voted for bond issues, people who complained the facts didn't justify a new building, and a librarian who had a dream of falling debris.

The defeat shocked the library's elected board. "I thought we were making a case—and it was exciting" to voters, says Barbara Murphy. Like other board members, Murphy had eagerly anticipated creating a spacious "library for the twenty-first century," fitted for both enhanced computer technology and storage of print materials. Expanding the library's role as a meeting place, the new building would have had a cafeteria, a 400-seat auditorium, facilities to make films, and lots more space for the AADL's popular children's and family programs. Supporters also believed that a spectacular new building would enliven downtown—at a board meeting, trustee Jan Barney Newman envisioned an "architectural delight."

The board and Parker, who celebrated her tenth anniversary as director last spring, were confident they could deliver. They'd already completed three new, eco-friendly branches—Malletts Creek, Pittsfield, and Traverwood—on time and on budget. They'd also exhaustively documented the shortcomings of the downtown library back in 2007—before the recession hit and they put the project on hold.

A year ago, the library board decided the economy had improved enough to restart the project. It paid for a survey that found 61 percent of residents supported or leaned toward supporting a new library. After holding information sessions in June, the board voted unanimously to put a thirty-year, $65 million bond issue on the

November ballot.

Ellie Serras, the outgoing, energetic former director of the Main Street Area Association, agreed to lead the campaign. Supporters—including former mayor Ingrid Sheldon, retired water commissioner Janis Bobrin, Zingerman's owner Paul Saginaw, retired educator Joetta Mial, and McKinley CEO Albert Berriz—spoke to civic groups, met one-to-one with friends and neighbors, and raised $71,000. They used part of the money to craft a superb website, ournewlibrary.com, that showed the new branches, documented the problems with the existing building, and promised that replacing it would cost a typical homeowner "just a buck a week."

"A millage with organized opposition almost never passes," Washtenaw County Clerk Larry Kestenbaum remarked last summer. "The default vote for any tax increase is always no."

As late as mid-September, though, nobody would have called the opposition organized. While some individuals questioned the plan, they had no funding, no website, and no leader. But doubts were bubbling up—often in unexpected places.

When retired chemist Doug Jewett heard that "they were planning to tear the library down, I just had a rush of adrenaline," he says. An admirer of architect Alden Dow, who designed the first phase of the current building, Jewett sat outside the library for a couple of weeks, handing out cards inviting people to come to his house to discuss the issue.

Sheila Rice also got involved. After attending an informational meeting in June, the retired Washtenaw Community College librarian had a dream in which she saw piles of rubble coming down. The next day, she says, she walked into the building, looked at the walls, and thought, "This is just so solid." Rice thought up a name—"LOL=Love Our Library"—and, like Jewett, registered a "ballot question committee." Soon she was hearing from Kathy Griswold.

A social worker and MBA, Griswold describes herself as an "advocate." A former schools trustee who helped defeat a schools millage three years ago, she is emerging as the person in Ann Arbor you'd least like to oppose whatever you're supporting. Griswold had several objections to the plan, but the main one was equity: she felt the bond would force people on the outskirts to pay for a downtown building few would use.

Griswold soon found herself, by default, treasurer of a third group, "Protect Our Libraries." "I can order signs in my sleep," she says—and, soon 500 of them were dotting the city. She also mailed out 12,000 postcards to likely voters.

Rice spent about $200 of her own money, and Jewett $3,000 of his. Griswold spent almost $24,000. "Kathy Griswold got the real power," says Rice. "The No vote wouldn't have happened without her spending all the money."

Griswold says she put $7,000 on her credit card—part of it since repaid by other donors—and threw up a website, protectourlibraries.org. It didn't mince words: "Protect our libraries from the $65 million bond. Demolition is wrong! The limited benefits are not worth the almost $130,000,000 costs over 30 years."

In a "frequently asked questions" section of their website, new library backers pointed out that the $130 million figure assumed an absurdly high interest rate. They also protested other "misinformation," including an anonymous "talking points" memo that claimed the planned auditorium was a conference center in disguise.

But the "yes" campaign faced more fundamental problems. To sell the new library, supporters had to convince people the existing one was essentially obsolete. While the website had a powerful testimonial to that effect from builder Bill Kinley, most of the problems were in systems like plumbing, air conditioning, and wiring that are invisible to users. They also had to sell voters on a new kind of library—one focused less on the printed word and more on computer terminals and meeting space.

"They used the bond vote as a referendum," says Rice, "on 'Shall we be a community center?' "

Voters rejected the bond issue by 45–55 percent. The margin was so decisive that Griswold thinks it might have gone down even without opposition.

In the aftermath, theories to explain the defeat included people's attachment to the existing building; hesitation about the cost; and "construction fatigue" after years of work on the Library Lane parking structure. But in hindsight, some think the project's biggest problem was its timing. "People still have one foot in the recession," says Realtor Kevin Duke, a millage supporter who now thinks the board should have waited longer to bring the project back.

Ex-mayor Sheldon thinks the absence of a daily newspaper also played a role. With less sustained coverage, supporters had fewer chances to answer objections—and heated anonymous online posts replaced the comparatively sober debate of signed letters to the editor.

It's not at all clear what a Plan B will be, since the trustees so counted on Plan A. The need for major repairs is undeniable—and Murphy, the board's treasurer, says they would almost certainly have to turn to voters to pay for them.

Says Murphy, sounding bewildered, "We'll lick our wounds and talk about what we want to do next." ■

PHOTOS: MARK BIALEK AND J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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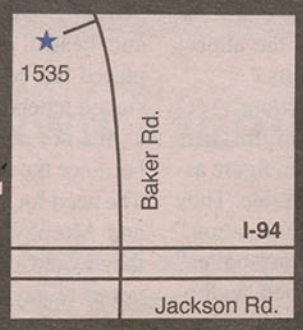

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JOE THE BUILDER

How an OSU grad shaped Ann Arbor.

by **Jan Schlain**

In 1961, Joe O'Neal worked on two construction projects. The first was a dam in Asia worth $300–$400 million. The second was a house in Ann Arbor that cost $39,000.

In January of that year, the blond, fit Ohio native added a U-M law degree to the bachelor's and master's in civil engineering he'd earned at Ohio State. Turning down offers to teach at the U-M, O'Neal got a job with one of the world's largest contractors, Peter Kiewit.

"It was like a dream come true," says O'Neal. He was assigned to the New York City office. "My job was to work with the in-house lawyer/boss to get the bids they were doing in foreign countries in line with the laws of the country they were bidding in."

In 1961, Kiewit was taking the lead in a joint venture competing for the biggest construction project ever put out to bid: the Mangla Dam in Pakistan.

"It was a big, big opportunity, and a major, major project." But, O'Neal adds, "it was not to be, for me.

"At the end of two weeks they had a meeting of all the big leaders of this bid … The night before this big meeting was to take place, I found a place in New York at which I could eat and afford it. It was down in the shadow of the United Nations building.

"Whatever I ate, I got the world's worst case of food poisoning. It was terrible. I got to that meeting, and I finally had to admit … I needed help. They took me to the hospital, and I spent five days trying to get rid of this thing. And I said [to myself] in those five days, 'I want freedom. I want Ann Arbor. I want to build my own company.' "

O'Neal moved back to Ann Arbor and a much smaller project: that fall, he started a house for civil engineering prof Eugene Glysson and his family. He'd worked for Glysson at Camp Davis, the U-M's summer program in the Rocky Mountains, and "they trusted me," O'Neal says. "I knew we needed a house, and I knew he was wanting to build one," Glysson recalls. "So we worked together and planned it, and he proceeded to build it, and he did a heck of a job."

O'Neal went on to build several more homes before landing his first two commercial projects in 1966—Northside Presbyterian Church (designed by the great modernist architect Glen Paulsen) and fire repairs on the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house.

Since then, O'Neal Construction, Inc., has worked on more than 1,000 projects. Its buildings are woven into the city's fabric. Everyone who's climbed the circular concrete stairs of the Power Center, admired the restored Michigan Theater, or browsed the locally owned shops at Kerrytown has been touched by an O'Neal project. O'Neal renovated the Hands-On Museum, the First National Building, and Burton Tower and built the city's main fire station. The condos at Sloan Plaza and Ashley Mews are OCI's work. And in the last few years, the company has reshaped Ann Arbor's vertical profile.

"Clearly the skyline has changed," O'Neal says, "and we helped it change." His company built the ten-story Zaragon Place and fourteen-story Zaragon West student high-rises and is at work on the Ann Arbor City Apartments at First and Washington. The firm didn't bid on any of those jobs: in every case, the developers came to O'Neal to manage their projects.

That doesn't surprise developer Bill Martin, who first met O'Neal when he was trying to get his first commercial building under way about forty years ago.

"I was very, very young at that time, just trying to launch a real estate career," Martin recalls. "I needed a builder to build a building on South U, and I got the quote from another builder, and it just wouldn't work … Somebody just mentioned a guy that had an office out on North Main Street—a little old house that's since been torn down—Joe O'Neal.

"I never heard of him, so I went to see him. I explained my situation. Would he like to make a proposal to build it? He said he certainly would. His number came in [much cheaper] and I almost fell out of my chair.

(Top) A tired Joe O'Neal gives his son Andrew a lift at the dedication of the Mountain Park Dam in 1975; the project almost did in his company. (Above) Andrew and Joe at the site of the Ann Arbor City Apartments with Joe's grandsons, "Little Joe" O'Neal and Kenneth Thompson.

"And he said, 'Any savings below that number go to you.' I remember I got back a check from him for savings.

"That started our relationship that's lasted … thirty-five, forty years. Some buildings he had built for us on a handshake. Not even a written contract. [He has] the highest ethical standards in the business world you could ask from anybody … He's an American original."

"That is music to my ears," O'Neal says. He's not talking about Martin's praise—if he'd heard it, he'd blush—but the rumbling of concrete trucks lining First Street at the City Apartments construction site. Vibrators settling the pour add to the racket, and in another corner someone is weld-

JOE THE BUILDER

ing. "Sixty years of it," says O'Neal. "That music has ruined my ears."

O'Neal is standing in the alley behind Downtown Home & Garden—outside the construction fence, no hard hat. He turned eighty this year and stepped back from day-to-day management a couple of years ago. The work here, as well as the shopping center OCI is building on Washtenaw across from Whole Foods, the remodeling of Barracuda Networks' new offices on Maynard, and a few dozen other ongoing projects, is overseen by OCI president Will Gordon. But at least once a day, O'Neal walks over from his office in the Argus Building on W. William to see how work here is progressing.

"One floor, two floor, three floor, fourth floor," he says, counting off the levels in the parking structure that will underlie the residential section. "The city runs the parking. Ann Arbor City Apartments own the apartments."

Even if the project were being built by someone else, O'Neal says, "I would be visiting it just about as many times as I do now." But because it's his, "I can have the joy of knowing that we're building that and watching the orchestration. That's a very current building, and everybody today is asking about it because we're klutzing up First"—the concrete trucks, lined up like New York taxicabs, have the street narrowed down to a single lane.

He's been hanging around construction sites since he was a boy in Marietta. His father, an accountant at Remington Rand, "was very helpful in being both a sidewalk superintendent and liking to watch other people build," O'Neal says with a twinkle in his deep blue eyes. "In those days, you could go right on the site. There were no fences. When they left at night it was wide open, and you could get up in the equipment. Many a day I played on the weekend on a construction site just like a playground."

A different kind of play brought him to Ann Arbor: the night before the 1953 Ohio State game, O'Neal and four other members of OSU's senior men's honorary society drove up from Columbus. Their intent was to paint an "O" in the middle of the field at Michigan Stadium.

"The prank never happened," he recalls. "It had rained quite hard, and the stadium was easily accessible at that time, but the tarp was on it." After getting a talking-to by the police in the pouring rain, he spent his very first night in Ann Arbor, wet, sleeping on the couch in front of the fireplace at the SAE frat house that he would someday renovate.

The next morning, he walked down South U to look at the town and campus. "I loved the city," he recalls. "I admired the university. And I applied [to law school] here.

"It was a life-changing event."

After his first year of law school, O'Neal spent the summer of 1958 teaching at Camp Davis, near Jackson Hole, Wyoming. After his second year, he took a two-year break to fulfill his commitment to the Air Force—"that should have started in '55, but they delayed it because of law school," he explains. "I decided to get that off my back." The Air Force assigned him to oversee a major housing project—610 homes, "one being built practically every four hours … I wasn't the superintendent, but I was in charge of the contractor—representing the owner—getting those houses done and getting them done right."

He asked for an early discharge so he could teach at Camp Davis again before returning to law school. If the Air Force had refused, he says, "my life would have been different … it was at the second visit to Camp Davis that I met Karen."

"I was the only female student," recalls Karen Koykka O'Neal. "Joe was teaching—Joe is nine years older than me … I knew right away [that I was going to marry him]."

They married in 1963, living first on Sunnyside, then on Scottwood. Daughters Heidi and Heather and son Andrew attended Burns Park elementary—until they moved to Oklahoma, where their father was building a dam.

O'Neal has always loved working with water—as a boy, he says, "I would dam up every stream around Marietta." But building the Mountain Park Dam nearly sank his company. "There were some pretty dark days," O'Neal admits. "We had so many big storms—we had three five-hundred-year floods in the course of

An O'Neal Construction sampler

A few of OCI's 1,000+ projects:

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Bryant Elementary School
Parkway Meadows apartments
U-M Hillel
Plymouth Park I, II, and III
JJR building on Miller
NEW Center
Hands-On Museum (historic fire hall phase)
Clonlara School
Sloan Plaza
Ice Cube
Knox Presbyterian Church
University Commons
Traverwood I, II, and III
American Red Cross building
Peace Neighborhood Center
St. Nicholas Church
WCC Morris Lawrence Building
AA District Library Northeast Branch
NSF International World Headquarters
U-M Softball Stadium
U-M Glick Field House
U-M Soccer Stadium
Tower Plaza south window wall
Ashley Mews condos
Historic Street Exhibits
Zaragon Place
Zaragon West
Ann Arbor City Apartments

the project. Everything—you name it—started going wrong."

"I was really down at one particular point, when we lost control of the river. One of the guys said, 'If we go backwards we can only lose everything; we can gain and maybe hold our own if we go forward.'

"It helps to have a tiger chasing you—no question," O'Neal says. "We were bankrupt at one point." But they finished the dam, and a successful auction of their used equipment saved them from insolvency.

It was O'Neal's first stab at heavy construction, and his last. "I didn't become Peter Kiewit," he says. "The Oklahoma experience brought me back to earth."

Oklahoma was the worst moment in his career—but the recession that started with the 2008 financial crisis was tough, too. "The bottom really dropped out" of construction, O'Neal recalls. When contracts stop coming in, "we try every way to inch by with the people we have doing the smallest possible work and hoping something comes along. We've even had people from the field come in and do estimating. In the hardest part of all, we lay people off. That's the worst thing."

What came along this time was rental housing downtown. Four high-rise apartments have opened in the past three years, and two more are under construction. OCI was hired to manage construction on three of them.

The night before the 1953 OSU game, O'Neal and four other students drove up from Columbus. Their intent was to paint an "O" in the middle of the field at Michigan Stadium.

Manage is the key word. Unlike the early years, when OCI's own employees poured concrete, pounded nails, and hung drywall, most building is now done by specialized subcontractors. OCI provides coordination and oversight—a role O'Neal likens to an orchestra conductor's. "If everyone followed the plans and did exactly what they are supposed to do in our contract, we really are not needed," O'Neal says. "But they don't, so we're needed."

Since he stepped back from daily operations, O'Neal says, "Will [Gordon] worries about the construction, and Andrew worries about all the properties." As president of parent company O'Neal, Inc., Andrew oversees OCI, Kerrytown, and several other buildings. All three of Joe and Karen's children have worked in the family business, but only Andrew remains active. Heidi and her husband, both MBAs, live in Paris with their three daughters, Britton, Austen, and Nella. Heather, who co-owns the Himalayan Bazaar on Main Street, is married and has a toddler, Kenneth. Andrew, who's divorced, has one boy, Joe.

O'Neal says that he and Andrew work well together—though Karen points out that there is no question who's boss. While Joe no longer sits in on every meeting, he says, "I keep my eyes on the dials and gauges."

Whatever comes next, retirement is not part of the O'Neal plan—Karen refers to Florida as "the 'F' word."

"I never want to be out of Ann Arbor," says Joe. "I'm happy here."

One of the ways he's filled his new free time is thinking about the city's future. O'Neal is "more than a builder," Bill Martin says. "He's one of those city fathers. He's always putting the city's interest first."

O'Neal was the founding chair of the Friends of the Ann Arbor Greenway, a group that advocates building parks and paths along the buried course of Allen Creek. "Fingerle's property, [the parking lot at] First and William, [the former city garages at] 415 West Washington [and] 721 N. Main. I can name you every property along there—I've talked with all of them."

In his vision, people could walk or bike along the Ann Arbor Railroad tracks from Stadium Boulevard to the Huron River, "and never cross a street and never cross the railroad. And it's possible, and it's doable, *if you're confident.* You have to have a vision, and you have to be confident you can carry it out."

He's also a strong supporter of the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. He says, modestly, that he thinks that a little of that passion "comes from when I tried to play the cornet in high school and found out I'm not a musician. Karen and her family are very much in the arts." Karen owns Out of Hand Papermaking Studio, where she makes art papers from natural fibers and teaches.

His third passion is a historic mill in Macon, south of Saline, that was once owned by Henry Ford. There, at least, he's still a hands-on builder—he's just moved, rebuilt, and rewired a shed Ford built. He's also built a dam that's not just a tribute to his boyhood fascination with water—it's an exact re-creation, in miniature, of the Mountain Park Dam.

"I can't wait in the morning to get to work," he says as he turns out the lights in the shed Ford built. "I can't wait until it's time to go running. I can't wait until it's time to come here. I can't wait to have dinner with Karen, and I can't wait to go to bed." He adds, pointing to his still fit, sturdy, eighty-year-old frame, "I ask quite a bit of this thing."

As for his very first project, the Glyssons lived in their home until this past summer, when they sold it (for $315,000, not $39,000) and moved to Glacier Hills.

"We're sorry we had to give it up," Eugene Glysson says. "You get to the point where you can't take care of the yard and that sort of thing … you just do what you have to do.

"It didn't take long to sell. It was a very sellable house!" ■

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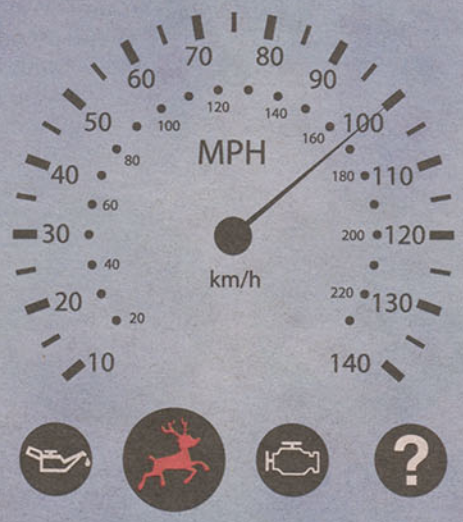

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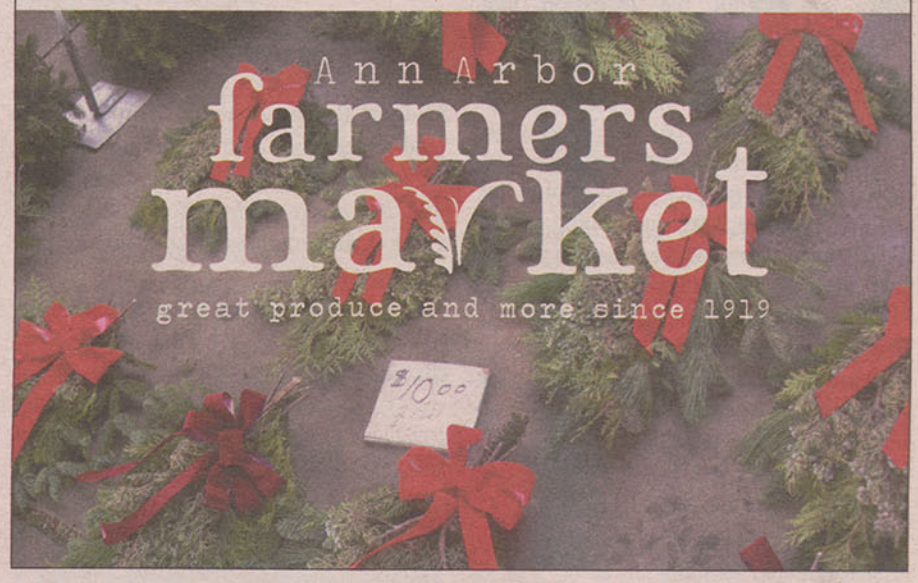

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Mary Thiefels sees "a dialogue" between illegal taggers and her authorized murals.

Ann Arbor takes aim at graffiti.

ELIMINATION GAMES

BY GREG DOBRIN

London had its summer Olympics. Ann Arbor has a more regular match. It isn't necessarily seasonal, and it certainly isn't sport. It's the hide-and-seek chasing down of spray-can-wielding outlaws.

Tag, you're it, Ann Arbor.

More than tagged, the town has been marked, mural'd and occasionally *mired* in what some view as renegade beauty and others call outright vandalism. Even the bark of Tree Town's namesakes isn't off limits.

Three years ago, city council saw the writing on local walls and strengthened the town's graffiti ordinance. In the fall of last year, the city again beefed up abatement efforts through the police department's Office of Community Standards.

Purely cultural or plainly criminal, most graffiti simply violates the state's malicious destruction of property law, says Lt. Renee Bush, who oversees the unit.

It's a double whammy for property owners. According to the ramped-up city ordinance, "No person who owns or otherwise controls or manages any property shall permit or allow any Graffiti to be or remain on any surface or structure on the property beyond the time indicated in a notice …"

In other words, property owners—the victims, that is—are held responsible for cleanup. The city makes exceptions, but, technically, owners have seven days to eliminate graffiti. If they don't do it, the city will … for a charge.

Over at the U-M, graffiti is a matter of chalk. It's also a matter of position—horizontal or vertical. "As long as it's done in chalk, then it's permissible," explains public information officer Diane Brown. But only if it's on a horizontal surface, such as a sidewalk.

Campus cops are vigilant about graffiti elsewhere, says Brown, particularly at hard-hit top levels of parking structures, noting that some cases dovetail with those of city police. As reported by AnnArbor.com, two taggers, both Ann Arbor teens, were arrested in early 2012 on felony and misdemeanor charges. One of them, Brown says, was also accused of tagging the campus.

In 2009, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) joined the graffiti elimination games, offering $2,000 worth of abatement tools in partnership with Anderson Paint and Fingerle Lumber. The companies can provide downtown property owners with a variety of materials, including the trademarked paint remover Elephant Snot.

The strategy is to reduce graffiti by lifting some of its elephantine load from the vandalized, DDA executive director Susan Pollay explains: "They have to actually go through the effort of trying to remove it … we're trying to lessen the burden on them."

John Fingerle, president and co-owner of Fingerle Lumber (which sees its own share of graffiti), says the DDA program attracts a fairly steady stream of customers. Anderson Paint's general manager, John Rudolph, says requests spike during bouts of media attention. The DDA underwrites up to $25 per purchase, while allotments last.

With the 2012 arrests, which reportedly included a twenty-two-year-old male, the town's anti-graffiti posture has proved more than mere exercise. The muscle may not yet be Olympian: some say the graffiti problem is worse, some say it's lessened. But Pollay says the DDA program has an impact, that markings now appear mostly in the outer neighborhoods. A cursory tour seems to support that observation.

One thing most people working on the problem agree on is that graffiti begets graffiti. The sooner you eliminate it, the less likely more will appear.

The opposite is true at Ali Baba's, the popular Middle Eastern eatery just off the DDA grid at Packard and Hill, where two street-level tags—side-by-side duplicate white inscriptions—are so neatly positioned they might've been added as decoration by the restaurant. They weren't. The building is tagged with such unrelenting frequency, says co-owner Karam Dari, he's given up covering it. "I got sick of painting," he says. "And painting and painting and painting."

For Ann Arbor–based Artrain, paint-overs are as futile as they are costly. As viewed from the river path, the nonprofit's Pullman is a carload of mostly bubble-style graffiti. Located on leased tracks alongside its NEW Center offices and currently under renovation, the Artrain's easterly exterior doesn't, as you might expect it would, intentionally represent the traveling art outreach organization that owns it.

"It's vandalism," says Artrain, Inc., CEO Debra Polich, but removing it would cost close to $2,000, and the graffiti at least provides a buffer against further tagging. It's also an irony of ironies, allows Polich, for a group that in the late 1980s held a controversial competition in which graffiti artists around the country painted actual rail cars. (The Ann Arbor car, in place since 1993, wasn't one of them.)

For real graffiti burnout, consider what happened at a vacant and extensively tagged apartment building at 1500 Pauline. Already slated for demolition,

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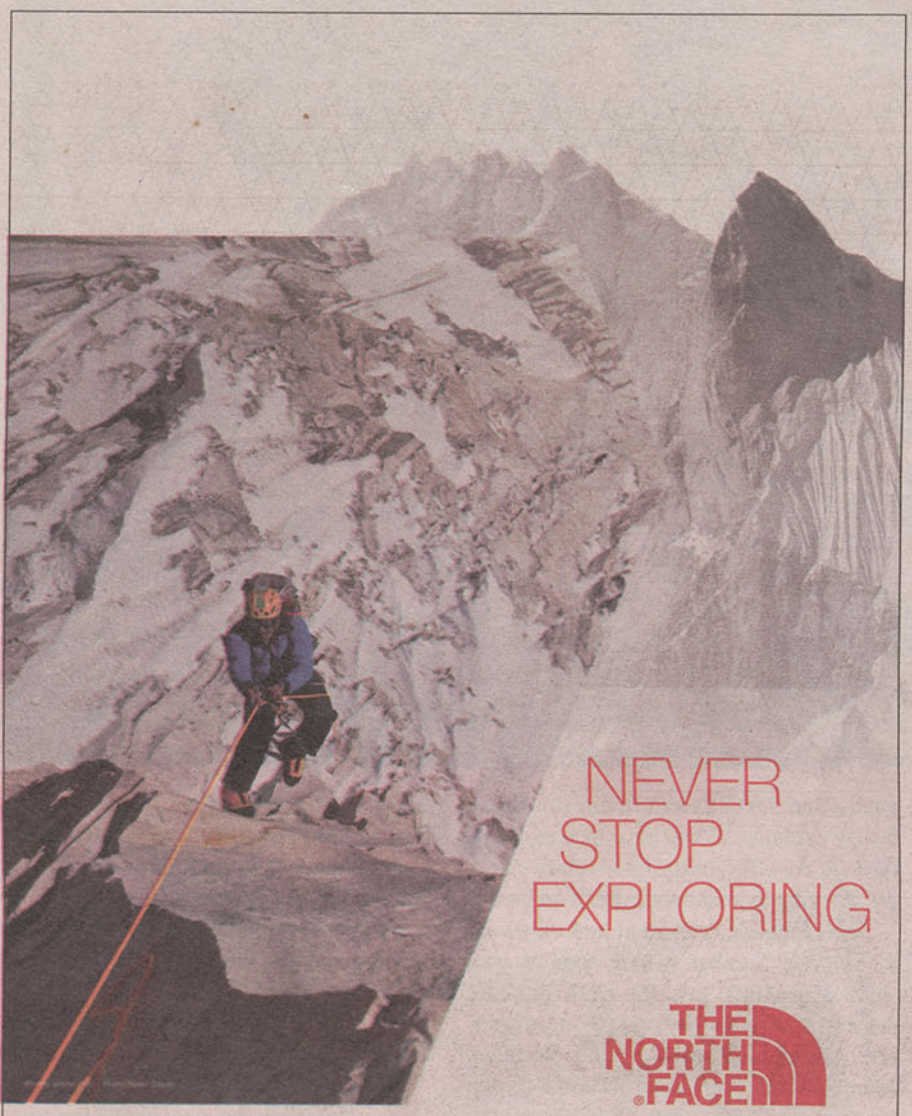

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ELIMINATION GAMES

the entire complex, including its graffiti-emblazoned Pauline frontage, was swept by fire and bulldozed in October. According to AnnArbor.com, the flame-engulfed scrawls included inflammatory sentiments directed at police.

Expletives of a non-exclusive nature appeared recently behind Knight's Market at 420 Miller (another site just beyond DDA program reach). When the tag was painted over, a pasted-on, letter-sized appliqué materialized in its stead—it, too, showcasing four-letter words. "It's a never-ending thing," says manager Vernon Bedolla.

Ann Arbor, of course, is far from alone in its tagging woes. London, famous for its Big Brother–ish closed-circuit security cameras, underwent a drastic graffiti clampdown in the run-up to the summer Olympic games (as reported in particular by the *London Vandal,* an online zine and graffiti supply store). It was just the latest chapter in an age-old graffiti story. When it comes to besmirching walls that don't belong to you, ancient Olympians were champion doodlers.

U-M classics professor David Potter, whose book *The Victor's Crown* deals with Greek and Roman sport from Homer to Byzantium, says Nemea, one of four main original Olympic sites (along with Isthmia, Olympia, and Delphi), is where most of the graffiti is found.

"You're just sitting around waiting," says Potter, "so you scribble things about the guy you're going to fight." Some of the writings are quite crude, Potter says.

And despite the mudslide of negative political ads suffered this election year, the ancients beat us in that arena, too, employing such graffiti sentiments as "All the prostitutes want to vote for this guy," scrawled on public walls in shameless perpetuity (as witnessed especially at Pompeii, preserved by volcanic ash).

Yes, modern Ann Arbor keeps its pace with humankind's ancestral habit of painting things where they don't belong. Take, for example, Liberty Street's "Graffiti Alley."

Local artist Mary Thiefels, whose TreeTown Murals is responsible for some of our best-loved mural art, recalls a time when Graffiti Alley was mostly murals—"small, really neat pieces that artists obviously went in with brushes and thoughtfully painted different scenes."

Commissioned twenty years ago by the State Street Area Association (then run, as it happens, by the DDA's Pollay—"that alley always had graffiti," she remembers), the deck-of-cards-themed works existed for many years but were continually tagged.

"And now," says Thiefels, "you see what you see."

What you see is a phantasm of expression, from bubble lettering to bubble gum.

In 2001, developer Peter Allen commissioned Thiefels to do a mural on the abutment to the Ann Arbor Railroad trestle next to his offices on N. Main. The result—a lush, undulating view of the town, the river, and the bridge itself—is sanctioned by a waiver from the Ann Arbor Railroad, as are Thiefels' other trestle abutment murals around town.

"It's such a fine line," says Thiefels, a proponent of street art who doesn't condone vandalism. "I feel like it's [crossed the line] when people tag small businesses or when they're tagging private property."

Rob Cleveland spent $3,000 cleaning up graffiti—only to be hit again within days.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The muralist advises other young artists on how to do their art legally, but, she says, "I think a lot of artists, they're just testing the boundaries."

As for having her own work tagged, while it might seem disrespectful, it can also be collaborative. In the abutment under the AARR's Huron Street trestle, her rendering of a flower attracts flourishes which don't encroach, an example of artists "riffing" off each other.

"It's a dialogue," says Thiefels.

Art, wrote Stephen Sondheim tunefully, isn't easy. It also doesn't always happen when and where you want it. Consider the case of the Grizzly Peak building, where in late 2011 muralist "Shades" never finished his work and owners had to perform a strictly cosmetic dissing of it.

And then there's the Rock at the corner of Washtenaw and Hill (in what is actually city-owned George Washington Park),

painted over so often by generations of wanton undergrads as to become a Wolverine tradition.

Anything but a dialogue between artists, the slathering began in the 1950s as a Michigan State prank with a green "S" on a then-pristine boulder-and-plaque tribute to Washington's 200th birthday. It's been a paint magnet ever since.

Though the Rock is sometimes repainted nightly, police say complaints are rare. Does this qualify as graffiti?

"I know it when I see it," Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart famously dithered in *Jacobellis v. Ohio,* a 1964 obscenity case. Stewart died in 1981, slightly before graffiti, the scofflaw language of warring urban gangs, became the province of rogue virtuosos working in an oeuvre of spray paint and wheat paste, their creative impulses manifesting overnight like crop circles.

It was the birth of the vandal as rock star. And since the 1980s heyday of such icons as Keith Haring, the commercial art world has embraced graffiti madly, with works selling in the six digits. Stephen Schudlich, who directs exhibitions for U-M School of Art and Design, says property owners can hit the jackpot when tagged by a popular non-commissioned artist.

In 2010, when famed British graffiti artist Banksy painted a wall at a deserted Detroit auto plant, a gallery sawed off the section, took it to their exhibition space, and displayed it under lights. According to the *Detroit Free Press,* the move sparked a firestorm over the ownership, value, and context of graffiti as art.

These days, says Schudlich, perpetrators likely spent time in art school. Even the word "graffiti" has advanced to academic respectability; it's become a credible art term, he says.

But vandalism by another name is still vandalism. At the old factory he owns on Felch, Rob Cleveland spent roughly $3,000 in early 2012 to eliminate an array of graffiti—only to see it repeated days later.

The second assault was malicious, says Cleveland, who had to hire a contractor to remove the mess. "They were spray painting over windows. They scratched their names into our skylights." According to an anonymous tip, it was intended as retaliation for the first cleanup.

AnnArbor.com reported that a local teen—the tagger known as "Gexir"—was charged with the crime. For the Felch vandalism and another incident at a parking structure, he was given two years of probation, and ordered to pay $19,319.92 in restitution (plus $3,105 in court costs and fines).

Cleveland, CEO of Icon Interactive, one of several concerns housed at 220 Felch, says when his experience hit local media he had e-mails saying, "Yeah, me too, this is wretched, I spent thousands of dollars painting and sandblasting and to what end?"

Tagging, says Cleveland, doesn't compare with someone bleeding on the sidewalk, but the police nevertheless did a laudable job at 220 Felch. Even so, his impression is that the city is "horribly

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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pressed" for adequate police resources.

"Horribly pressed" is an understatement in the opinion of one anonymous staffer we spoke to, who says that on a force cut by almost one-third over the past decade, responding to thousands of reports each year, an officer focused solely on graffiti would be "a luxury." According to Lt. Bush, activity has slowed "quite a bit" since the cooler weather. But the vacancy left by a retirement earlier this year has been filled—Community Standards recently assigned a new detective to the graffiti effort.

GREG DOBRIN

Most local taggers are teens.

So if the learned Justice Stewart couldn't characterize pornography, what about graffiti?

The city's website defines it as "any mark or marks on any surface or structure made without the prior permission of the property owner and made in any manner, including but not limited to, writing, inscribing, drawing, tagging, sketching, spray-painting, painting, etching, scratching, carving, engraving, scraping, or attaching."

"It's a fine line between art and tagging and graffiti," says Lt. Bush.

Ah. That fine line again.

As for gang-related markings, Lt. Bush says the only local instance she's seen was in Ypsilanti, and it was likely a "copycat" insignia—in this case that of the Los Angeles Crips.

Duplicate graffiti, on the other hand, is relatively common, according to the U-M's Schudlich; some artists specialize in stencils and appliqués. One of the best-known political images of all time, the Obama "Hope" poster, was created by such a mass duplicator, the self-described graffiti "writer" Shepherd Fairey, who, as reported by the *Boston Globe,* was arrested in early 2009 for tagging two sites in Beantown.

If tagging is considered a youth crime, Fairey, thirty-nine at the time of his arrest, breaks the stereotype. Nor do perpetrators fit the black, Latino, or Asian profile commonly linked to gang graffiti in large American cities. Fairey, a Los Angeles resident even at the time of his Boston arrest, is white, along with at least two of the recently apprehended Ann Arbor taggers.

Graffiti artists aren't exclusively male, either, according to reports—though some say the inherent dangers of isolated nighttime locations helps tip the gender balance.

So who's tagging Ann Arbor? According to a fifteen-year-old white, middle-class Pioneer High School student we'll call Mike, it's mostly people his own age. "It's an underground thing. It's really between the skaters and the stoners," he says. The more you tag, the more popular you become, says Mike—not at school, he's quick to point out, but around town. Everyone's aware of its illegality, he says.

Tagging can be a rite of passage. Mike says that to join one exclusive "group" (it's not a gang, he says), you have to tag at least thirty locations. In addition to spray paint, they gut marking pens and replace the tips with sponges for more ink coverage. Skaters sometimes use pre-tagged mailing labels. "They'll skate by and slap them places," says Mike.

Everyone has their own style, he says, showing me how a more experienced tagger instructed him to merge the letters in his tag for a more cryptic, personalized look. Some of the most popular tags among Mike's peers are "soap," "girl" (done on what Mike says is a paint-guzzling white background), and "mooh." Members of the skater tagging "tribe" also mark their skateboards with their own unique tags.

While taggers around town are mostly teens, says Mike, he's heard of some as old as thirty. Among the town's graffiti celebrities are the infamous Gexir, and also "K-R-K"—a tag that isn't easily intelligible. (The less readable a personal inscription, the cooler it is, says Mike.) Markings can include everything from symbols to lettering to directional arrows to faces and other images.

Why do they tag? It's not out of rebellion, destruction, or solely for outlaw risk, Mike says. It's mostly about fame and popularity. Only in cases as extreme as 220 Felch does Mike consider tagging vandalism. He hadn't heard of Gexir's arrest and punishment, and seemed surprised to learn of it.

Is that a deterrent? Maybe for the younger kids, says Mike, but for his own age group, probably not. It might even have the opposite effect. "I think people will keep doing what they do," he says.

If deterrence fails, some feel, perhaps all that creativity can be diverted into legal channels. Long before the city's crackdown, the Ann Arbor District Library began hosting a Teen Graffiti Art Exhibit, a contest held annually during the Art Fair. Says AADL director Josie Parker, "The message is … there is an appropriate place and an appropriate way to exhibit graffiti—and it's not on the sides of buildings or on people's houses."

The message apparently missed its mark with one dexterous youth. Gexir himself was the exhibit's 2010 third-prize winner. This past summer, even as the Felch incident was wending its way through the courts, Gexir entered again—and took first place.

Such isolated cases notwithstanding, Parker says, AADL steers its contestants clear of criminal behavior. "It's done casually," she says. "It's not preachy. But we make sure they understand we're not encouraging them to put paint on anything other than a canvas." ■

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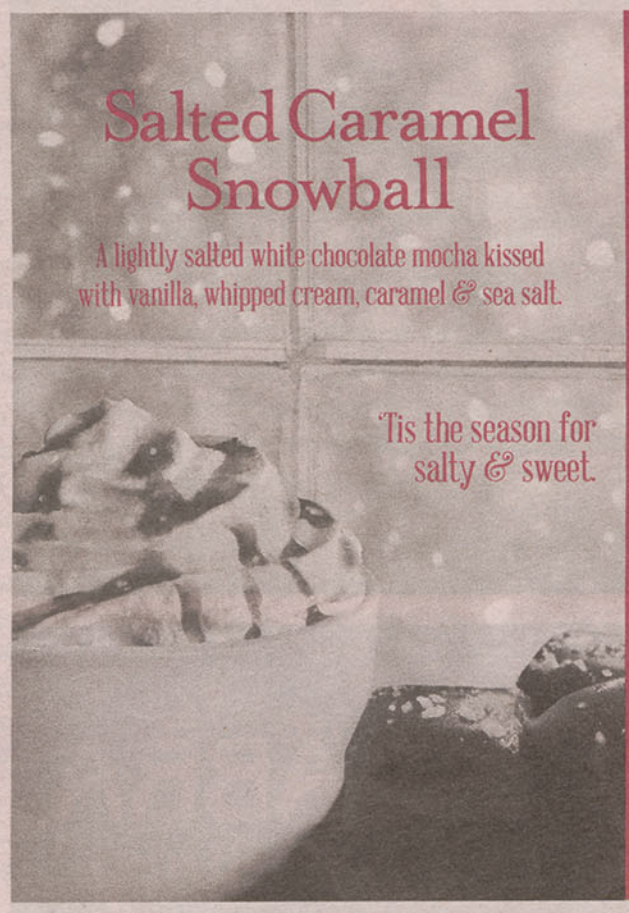
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2012 Holiday Shopping Guide

When I was a kid, I could never figure out why my parents would say, "Oh, I don't want anything in particular for the holidays." Or, worse, they would tell me to get them something mind-numbingly boring to watch them open, like socks.

Now that I'm a grown-up, I understand. There are things we big kids need that aren't appropriate gifts, like a new washing machine, a hybrid car, or various unmentionables. And then there are all those things out there that we'd probably love to put on our wish list, if only we knew about them. But we don't. So we tell our loved ones, "Oh, I don't know. I don't want anything special."

But here's the thing: thanks to the Observer's advance team, you will be the one in the know, the one who found that special something no one knew they even wanted. Oh, the satisfaction of giving a sweet surprise! Read on.

Family owned since 1974, **Abracadabra Jewelry/Gem Gallery** with a beautiful storefront on Liberty, offers all sorts of treasures, from WOW! custom pieces, to affordable handmade items under $50. Seven talented elves—er, designers and jewelers are busy making beautiful one-of-a-kind adornments from locally purchased and refined eco-recycled gold, silver, and platinum, as well as ethically obtained fair trade diamonds and gemstones. Jewelry repairs, appraisals, and personalized engraving also available!

For an authentic holiday sweet treat, check out **Achatz Handmade Pie Company**. Boasting "52 flavors of pie heaven," they make all-natural pies using Michigan fruit, flour, dairy, and sugar without a single artificial ingredient. Featured by folks in the know like Rachael Ray, and Bon Appetit and Food and Wine magazines, Achatz's new holiday lineup includes Pumpkin Cheesecake, Cannoli, French Pecan, Michigan 4-berry, and Caramel Nut Apple pies. Pre-orders available online!

One of the best places to find things-they-never-knew-they-wanted is at **Found**, in Kerrytown, a delightful assortment of recycled, repurposed, and rediscovered wonders with a changing inventory sure to charm. This season, Found is showcasing a wide selection of jewelry made from lovely translucent sea glass, a witty chandelier made from six dangling soda pop bottles, and "fork ark" angels with the fork handle as the body and tines as face, hands, and halo, plus spoon wings.

Also in Kerrytown, **Mudpuddles** is your locally owned Thomas the Tank Engine headquarters, with 20 percent off Sir Topham Hat and his friends all year round. The captivating store is open daily, and carries the Klutz line of activity books, beautiful Corolle dolls, imaginative wildlife mobiles, Bruder Trucks, and award-winning games and toys for bright and creative kids—and the grown-ups who love them.

Probably the business most often mistaken as fictional in the Observer's monthly Fake Ad contest, **Flatsnoots** Christmas tree lot has a new location this year: at 2103 W. Stadium

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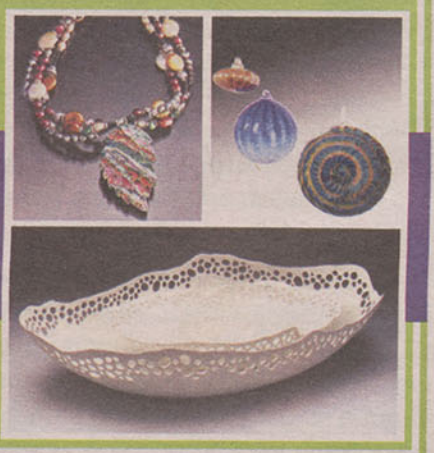

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2012 Holiday

just past the post office in the plaza with Arbor Farms and Ace Hardware. Flatsnoots sells only Northern Michigan–grown trees and wreaths, and offers truly splendid customer service. These folks want to make your Christmas tree shopping experience a memorable event; they even have a coolest, funkiest, MOST AMAZING hat contest. Flatsnoots will go the distance to secure your purchase for the drive home—even if you arrived by bicycle.

Who doesn't want to be "bee-yoo-ti-full," as my grandmother used to say, for the holidays? **Bellanina Day Spa**, on Fourth Avenue, offers their full line of in-house botanical products including cleansers, toners, and moisturizers, all made locally. You can also buy someone special a gift certificate in the store or online, which gives you the option of printing it yourself or having one mailed. In addition to skin care, waxing, massage, body, and nail services, your giftee can use the certificate for special occasion make-up services by Bellanina's accredited film and television make-up artist.

The Ann Arbor Art Center on Washington is packed with one-of-a-kind textiles, woodwork, sculptures, jewelry, paintings, glasswork, and more, all made by area artists. Every purchase supports the Center, as well as the artists it features. You can also give someone the gift of exploring his or her own talent, with the Art Center's studio art courses for all ages and abilities, as well as art camps and art parties for kids and grown-ups alike.

Don't forget the furry friends on your list. **BreedAbove's Pet Salon and Spa** offers full grooming service, with a cageless care system, a custom bathing area designed for even the biggest breeds, massage therapy for aging or injured pets, and even pre-groom "anti-anxiety" massages! If you're leaving town for the holidays, BreedAbove's comfy NightStay suites offer custom beds with innerspring mattresses, pillows, and linens, and your pet's stay will include flat-screen TV entertainment, popcorn and other treats, and lots of hugs and kisses.

For a spectacular annual event, don't miss the **Ann Arbor Boychoir's** Christmas performances, often sold out long before the dates. This year, the choir is of-

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor

A Boychoir Christmas

Friday December 14, 7 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti, 300 North Washington Street
Saturday December 15, 3 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, 1432 Washtenaw Avenue

tickets@aaboychoir.org aaboychoir.org 734.663.5377

fering two events, a performance on Friday, December 14, at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti, 300 North Washington Street; and Saturday, December 15, at 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor at 1432 Washtenaw Avenue. Tickets are available by contacting tickets@aaboychoir.org or by calling (734) 663–5377.

Family-owned **Elephant Ears** in Kerrytown stocks a wide selection of fair trade, organic, natural fiber, and sustainable kids' products, including funky clothing and accessories made in the USA, Europe, South America, Israel, Canada, and New Zealand. Children's gifts range from the simple (maple, walnut and cherry triangular stacking blocks, sanded to a smooth finish and finished with beeswax polish) to the spectacular: the Little Colorado log cabin playhouse, strong and sturdy and finished with non-toxic Danish oil or offered unfinished so you can stain or paint it to your specifications. Locally-owned Elephant Ears will always match prices so compare and save this season!

In Plymouth, **Haven** is a unique shop with a fascinating inventory of antiques, architectural salvage, fun holiday items, and gifts. You'll discover wonderful finds like tin ceiling tiles made into shelves, salvaged shutters turned into wall art, and, for the olfactory-oriented, delicious Cucina soaps and lotions, and naturally scented French soaps. You won't believe they're not baking brownies in the store when they have their Chocalateness candle burning! Haven also offers beautiful Dash and Albert rugs, Papaya stationery, and unique totes that make outstanding gifts. Check out their second location in Northville: 111 Center Street, opening February 2013.

Treat your friends and family like the stars they are! **Community Television Network (CTN)** provides exciting production facilities including studios, field production equipment, and editing suites that are available free of charge to Ann Arbor residents and nonprofit organizations. You can showcase your broadcasting skills, or help friends hone in on theirs during a CTN free workshop, which covers various aspects of television and digital media production. To register for a class, call (734) 794–6150. And don't forget to call in Thursday, December 13 from 6 p.m. – 8

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2012 Holiday

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The Pear Tree in Dixboro features many locally made eclectic goods perfect for your seasonal gift giving. Stop in the cozy Pear Tree and check out the colorful pottery, candles, unique Michigan–made jewelry, lamps, baby stuff, cards, handmade wood items, beautiful colored glass art, and seasonal items. Gift certificates are also available for the pickiest person on your list. The charming Pear Tree is open daily, and new items are arriving frequently. Come explore!

The First United Methodist Church is a multi-generational community church with two locations. They have a splendid roster of holiday events that bring together music, prayer, and community, including a pipe organ showcase concert downtown on Friday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m., a downtown Saturday Cookie Walk to benefit missions December 8 at 9 a.m., and a Christmas celebration concert downtown on December 16 at 7 p.m. There will be Christmas Eve services downtown at 5, 7, 9, and 11 p.m., including a 5 p.m. Candelight Family Service and an 11 p.m. service featuring the Chancel Choir and Instrument Ensemble.

Park Shoe Repair on Fourth Avenue not only offers cleaning, waterproofing, and repairs for boots and shoes to get them ready for the season (we've heard rumors Santa takes his footwear here), they also have a surprising selection of nifty gifts, including purses, belts, women's waterproof Tote boots, and Tingleys, which sound naughty but are actually very nice rubber overshoes for men.

Heavenly Metal, on E. Ann St. between Fourth and Fifth aves. offers an exuberant changing inventory, too. This one-of-a-kind shop features hand-crafted works by local artists as well as from around the globe. Specializing in apparel, high-spirited footwear, unique jewelry, purses, handbags, recycled metal artwork, and festive holiday items. Get in the local spirit with their cozy Open Houses every Friday night until 9 p.m. and convenient Sunday hours from noon to 5 p.m.

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Shopping Guide

for men and women, or a set of cuddly house slippers from Haflinger. Highly recommended: a Mast Shoes gift card, so that special someone can pick out his or her own pair of supportive, stylish and trend-setting footwear from brands like Dansko and Keen. Mast Shoes' staff is knowledgeable about orthopedic care, and will find you the perfect fit!

Guys, take it from a woman: we all love getting luxurious cosmetics and skin care items, and we won't for a minute take it to mean you think we need the war paint. **Lily Grace**, on Main Street, is Ann Arbor's luxury cosmetics and gifts boutique, with a selection of indulgent gifts and lavish luxuries for men and women. Not sure what to get? A holiday gift card has you covered. Lily Grace also offers special occasion and holiday makeup applications by reservation.

It is no coincidence that Main Street's **Ten Thousand Villages** is one of the best-performing stores in the nonprofit's chain. Ann Arborites have fallen in love with the shop's world music, fair trade coffee samples, and upbeat atmosphere, as well as its mission to promote dignity, hope, and a living wage for artisans around the world by selling their handicrafts, telling their stories, all while educating about Fair Trade. Look here for unique, handcrafted, and reasonably priced home accessories, jewelry, and more.

Look to **Lexi's Toy Box** on First Street for beautiful, handcrafted, heirloom-quality toys made from organic cotton, solid wood, and other fine materials. Lexi's has a wonderful selection of dress-up clothes, including leggings, pirate swords, superhero t-shirts with capes, tutus, fairy and princess costumes, and other imaginative attire. Lexi's encourages imaginative, open-ended play– no batteries needed! Come explore the musical instruments, Holztiger colorful wooden pieces, and more.

So this year, when people tell you, "Oh, don't buy me anything," or "I don't really need anything," just nod and give them an enigmatic smile. Because now, you know just what they want—even when they, themselves, do not.

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www.fumc-a2.org
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Holiday Pipe Organ Showcase Concert

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 Downtown, 9:00 am
Cookie Walk to benefit missions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 Downtown, 7:00 pm
Christmas Celebration Concert
Seasonal repertoire with soloists, instrumentalists, and an audience carol-sing – a reception follows

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Downtown Christmas Eve Services
5:00 pm Service for young children and their families
7:00 pm Family service featuring children & adult ensembles
9:00 pm Communion service with music by vocal soloists
11:00 pm Candlelight service with music provided by the Chancel Choir & Instrumental ensemble
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5:00 pm Candlelight Family Service

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WHOLE FOODS MARKET

Bona Sera Café

Wordplay

The motto of Ypsi's Bona Sera Café is "bad women cooking." The menu promises "twisted classics for your pie hole." And the owners—founders of an underground supper club that preceded this brick-and-mortar establishment on Michigan Avenue—prefer to use the pseudonyms "Bad Fairy" and "Wonder Woman."

Wordplay like that makes the persnickety English major inside me want to scream. And unfortunately it's not just words Bona Sera messes with but culinary traditions—neither to good effect.

First, though, let's talk about what the bad women do right. Much of the menu and many of the specials—particularly the straightforward dishes—are tasty.

The "Fruity Goat Salad" we had our first visit delighted us with wedges of deliciously chewy roasted beet tossed with grapefruit sections, pistachios, goat cheese, arugula, and a vanilla-scented vinaigrette. Another salad—"Crunch Time"—paired thinly sliced apple and fennel with mixed greens and a lemony vinaigrette to nice effect. That evening's sesame peanut noodle salad wasn't exceptional, but another rendition a few weeks later proved the meal's hit: a perfect amalgamation of slippery al dente noodles, crispy vegetables, and nutty, spicy sauce. A special salad of cold, sliced duck breast and "flayed" beets with truffle vinaigrette, though fine, paled in comparison.

Back to those messed-with traditions. Bona Sera offers what the menu calls *banh mi* sandwiches, but they're so different from that Vietnamese invention they can scarcely be called even an approximation or an interpretation. Bringing together Vietnam's French colonial and native traditions, a banh mi sandwich is one of the world's great subs—a crusty baguette filled with Asian-inflected grilled meats and/or cold cuts, pickled carrot and daikon, cilantro, mayo, chiles or hot sauce, and sometimes cucumber and scallion.

Bona Sera's banh mi replaces the baguette with a soft, flattened steamed Chinese bun, bread too flabby to maintain its integrity against the onslaught of the filling. A carrot-daikon slaw lacks the sweet, vinegary sparkle of the traditional pickle and offers no counterpoint to the meat, which, in the case of the chicken, was disappointingly bland. The shrimp option was much better, while the Italian *porchetta* (roast pork) version, dressed with fennel-apple slaw and a fennel vinaigrette, would have been fabulous on a crusty roll and relieved of the wildly inappropriate "banh mi" moniker. Part of Bona Sera's shtick is to reinvent or "twist" classics, but why mess with perfection unless you can improve it?

Another confused dish is the *tom yum* shrimp and grits. The spicy flavors of the Thai hot and sour soup sauce shrimp piled atop cheddar-y grits dotted with pancetta and balsamic vinegar were tasty in a bizarre way. I found the crunchy pancetta cubes, strongly cured with Italian seasonings, jarring, however, and much better paired with the porchetta version we tried on our second visit.

Part of Bona Sera's shtick is to reinvent or "twist" classics, but why mess with perfection unless you can improve it?

Bona Sera's *poutine* special also played with Canada's signature junk food, but this time in a way that made sense. Sturdy potato gnocchi replaced the fries, and a duck confit reduction the brown gravy, with shreds of ricotta salata standing in for the cheese curds. A sprinkling of duck cracklings garnished the bowl. Considering the ingredients, I found the dish surprisingly light on flavor, but everyone else at the table enjoyed it.

Other specials that evening also found willing partners. My dad slurped up a bowl of capellini and meatballs as if he hadn't eaten that day, and a plate of "surfy turfy"—sliced, beautifully grilled medium-rare flank steak mated with three jumbo sea scallops on a bed of greens and roasted potatoes—comforted my mother. These simple dishes highlighted the chefs' use of high-quality ingredients and the great care they take in preparing them. Unfortunately, the specials we chose another evening—potentially more nuanced or demanding—pleased no one. Truffled ricotta and beet lasagna arrived overly saturated by a sea of acidic tomato sauce and texture-less gluten-free macaroni and cheese proved completely devoid of salt and flavor.

Desserts tend toward homey sweets—a "Lil' Netty" oatmeal sandwich cookie, large triangular flattened brownies more cookie than cake, warm apple bread pudding pleasantly drowning in melting whipped cream, and salted caramel gelato—which you should never leave without finishing.

Bona Sera takes over the short-lived J. Neil's Mongolian Grille at the corner of Washington. A huge space, with two walls of windows, it feels rather cavernous in its present rendition, with simple tables and chairs and a few rococo sofas barely filling the expanse. Topped by a mammoth stainless steel hood, the open kitchen brings some life into the restaurant, a counterpoint to the bored and rather indifferent counter girl who takes your order. The chef-owners used a kickstarter.com campaign and their own savings to open Bona Sera, and I would guess it's still a work in progress. Perhaps another campaign and a liquor license would bring in a cozy bar and a few improvised dividers to break up the room, and a focus on what they do best would bring forth a menu both tasty and exactly written.

—Lee Lawrence

ILLUSTRATION: JOHN COPLEY

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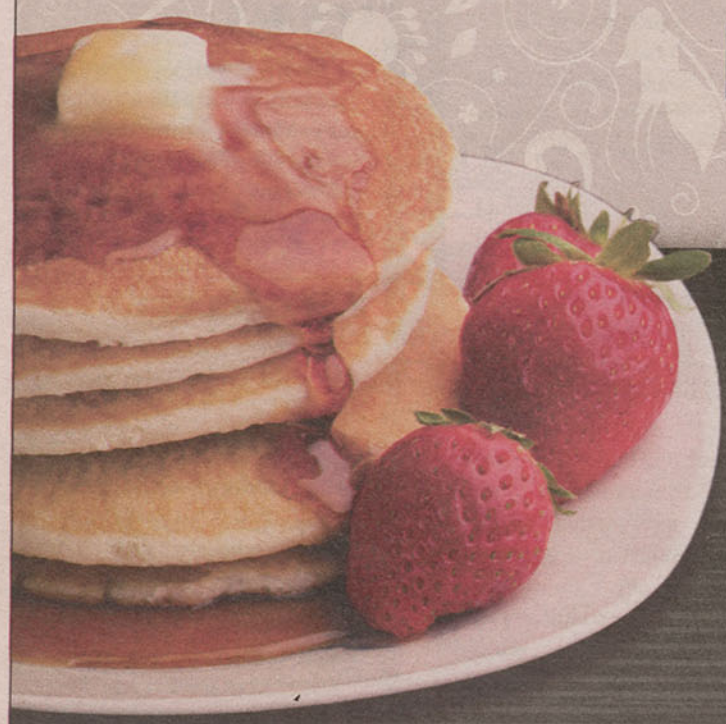

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Sampling the Holidays

Signs of the season in East Ann Arbor

If you believe every day is a holiday somewhere in the world, you can begin to prove your case along both sides of three blocks of Packard just past Platt. The area in what old-time Ann Arborites call East Ann Arbor is now our most concentrated ethnically diverse commercial hub. In a drive-by, your eyes could land on big marquees for Achilles Greek-style diner, Makkara "sushi to go," or Bombay Grocers (and purveyors of videos, statuettes, bangles, and other jewels of India).

If you believe every day is a holiday somewhere in the world, you can begin to prove your case along both sides of three blocks of Packard just past Platt.

If you're passing at night in December—or even just late afternoon on these shortest days of the year—your eyes might be drawn to some flashing light displays. The famous Italian chain (Little Caesars, ha-ha-ha) will likely make a big bright splash, as will Banfield's Bar & Grill and the front window of Golam Produce Market.

Christmas? Mostly, except the folks inside Golam say they keep the twinkly lights strung all year. They don't plan for fuss or rush in December, at least not any more than they experience at the end of every week when familiar customers come in for choice halal roasts (from animals slaughtered in accordance with Islamic law). A good weekend meal with the family is the best definition of "holiday," a small cluster of folks around the merchandise-crowded checkout counter seemed to agree.

Galleria Asian Market a few doors down has plans to put out a few Christmas decorations and gift displays amid its mostly Korean and Japanese groceries and household wares, but not a big production. As of mid-November, prime display shelves front and center in the massive store were lined with giant bow-wrapped boxes of a confection of some sort. Look closer and see, ah yes, they're the long thin candied-topped cookie sticks known in Japan by the tradename Pocky and in South Korea as Pepero. Apparently, in the last couple of decades the sticks have earned their own eponymous holiday in South Korea. Pepero Day is celebrated on November 11 because "11/11" looks like sticks—and because who doesn't need another Valentine's Day sort of celebration to warm up on a few months early?

Straight across the street, Euro Market had already hung a few artificial green garlands inside by early November. Bright babushka-painted nesting dolls, starting at $10, beckoned from stacked shelves, calling for an immediate plunge into Christmas shopping. The lanky cashier shrugged when asked what other special somethings might make the long trip over from Russia to warm the hearts of expats. Wine and candy were all he could come up with as popular sales items of the season. Indeed, the long thin store displayed a big wall of each. Also worth a gander: yummy-looking preserved vegetables, exotic teas, and Russian magazines.

A block further east, Tmaz Taqueria and Bakery proprietor Cesar Hervert bounced with the excitement of celebrating his first Christmas in business with as big a Mexican-style *posada* festival as his customers ask for. "I've ordered the piñatas and candies already," he explained. He's also planning to bake up batches of holiday cakes and cookies, starting right after Thanksgiving. When asked to describe those special baked goods in detail, he paused. "They're decorated," he said. He then added, in helpful tone, "for Christmas?" Might require a trip back at the right time to get the full picture.

Meanwhile, over at Hut-K Chaats, the transcendent purveyor of health-conscious Indian street food that has been a hit since Day One on Packard and also at Mark's Carts downtown in the summer, smiling co-owner Sumi Bhojani shook her head slowly when asked if there was anything special planned for Christmas. She indicated that Diwali, the Indian festival of lights, might inspire a bit of activity on November 13—but no promises.

Would Hut-K even be open on Christmas Day? I asked this after putting away a light but filling meal of grains swathed in chutneys and resonating of mint, ginger, and tamarind. A tiny sample-spoon taste of coconut ice cream made me want to settle in and keep tasting the mango, pomegranate, and pineapple flavors.

Sumi shrugged her shoulders. "Christmas will be what day of the week?" she asked. I pulled up a calendar on my phone and pointed to Tuesday. "We are always closed on Monday," she said. "So we will have to see."

Note to self: Check back. Exiting the quiet little shop, I realized that fresh red peppers and cilantro may be just the red and green I will long for come December 25.

—M.B. Lewis

The Zingerman's Times

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Giant Zzang!® Bars: Not Just for the "Nice" List!

According to *Times* sources, good boys and girls are finding something extra special in their holiday stockings this year: Foot-long Zzang! Original candy bars specially packaged for Christmas and Chanukah. These treats are perfect for sharing during the gift-giving season. However, folks who might be on the naughty list don't need to miss out on this great big deliciousness: these limited edition family-size Zzang!® candy bars (as well as holiday 4-packs) are available to everyone at Zingerman's Bakehouse, Delicatessen, Roadhouse and online at www.zingermans.com.

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Zingerman's Coffee Company	3723 Plaza Dr. 734.929.6060
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www.Zingermans.com

Zingerman's EXCLUSIVE

Ari Weinzweig's Wish List Leaked to the *Times*!

Highlights include Zingerman's co-founding partner's favorite flavors of 2012

On a tip received from an anonymous inside source, the *Times* investigative bureau has accessed the five foods Zingerman's co-founding partner Ari Weinzweig has on his list for a full-flavored season. Have these items on hand for holiday entertaining, or ship them to food-loving family and friends coast to coast at **www.zingermans.com or call 888.636.8162.**

Cranberry Pecan Bread

This bread is a magic combination of the Better than San Francisco Sourdough bread, dried New England cranberries, and more than a half pound of pecans and cranberries per loaf! Pick it up at Zingerman's Southside, Roadhouse, Deli & Mail Order.

Great Lakes Cheshire

Zingerman's first-ever hard cheese, from a very old recipe that the Creamery's founding partner John Loomis got from a Welsh cheese-maker 25 years ago. Made with rich, raw milk from Michigan raised Dutch-Belted cows, this semi-hard cheese is a flavorful addition to a cheese plate, and makes a hearty grilled sandwich.

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A special oil made by Walter Hewlett, whose grandfather, A. Walter Hewlett, was a pioneering cardiologist at U-M (his father, Bill Hewlett, co-founded Hewlett-Packard). This oil is made with Sicilian varietal olives, handpicked and pressed with 24 hours. The result is a delicate, subtly spicy oil special enough to give as a gift. Available at Zingerman's Deli, Roadhouse & Mail Order.

$4 from every bottle of Owens Creek oil sold benefits U-M Cardiovascular Center

The Best of 2012 tasting with Ari in the newly renovated , spacious Deli! Come check it out, and sample of Zingerman's favorite foods from a flavorful year. Tuesday, December 11th, 6:30-8:30pm $45/person. Call 734-663-3400 to save a seat or online at www.zingermansdeli.com

Local Dreams of Flavorful, Fuss-Free Feasting Come True

Dealing up Delicious Take-Home Dishes this Holiday

Reports from across the area indicate *Times* readers aren't dreaming of a white Christmas—they're fantasizing about enjoying full-flavored holiday fare with family and friends, without spending the entire season in the kitchen.

Need help planning a menu? Don't know how much food to order? Have other questions or concerns? Call now—the celebration specialists at Zingerman's can help make feeding loved ones come off like a dream!

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Limited Edition Brew Now Appearing!

Zingerman's Coffee Company's co-managing partner Allen Leibowitz recently confirmed rumors that this year's highly anticipated, exclusive Holiday Blend coffee bears flavors of toasted walnut and bright tart fruit, a delicious accompaniment for dessert. Available at Zingerman's Coffee Company, Bakehouse, Roadhouse, Delicatessen & Mail Order. Ask for a taste!

Reports of Airborne Bread Taking Off From Ann Arbor

Sighting of UFLs (Unidentified Flying Loaves) are up across the U.S. this holiday season, according a NASA investigation. Experts confirm handmade Jewish rye, pecan raisin and Roadhouse breads, along with several other best-selling artisanal loaves from Zingerman's Bakehouse, are coming out of Ann Arbor. According to insiders, this phenomenon is the result of local *Times* readers sending Zingerman's Monthly Bread Club to loved ones (and food lovers) around the country for the holidays from www.zingermans.com. Visit the Bakehouse or **www.zingermansbakehouse.com** to find out more about traditional breads and goods for the holidays.

Zingerman's Gelato Racks Up Record Frequent Flyer Miles

The *Times* travel bureau reports handmade gelato is packing up and visiting friends and family from coast to coast in record numbers this season. With arrangements made through Zingerman's Mail Order, special gelato six-packs are shipping straight from Zingerman's Creamery in high volumes.

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Karin Wagner Coron: Rock River Beach

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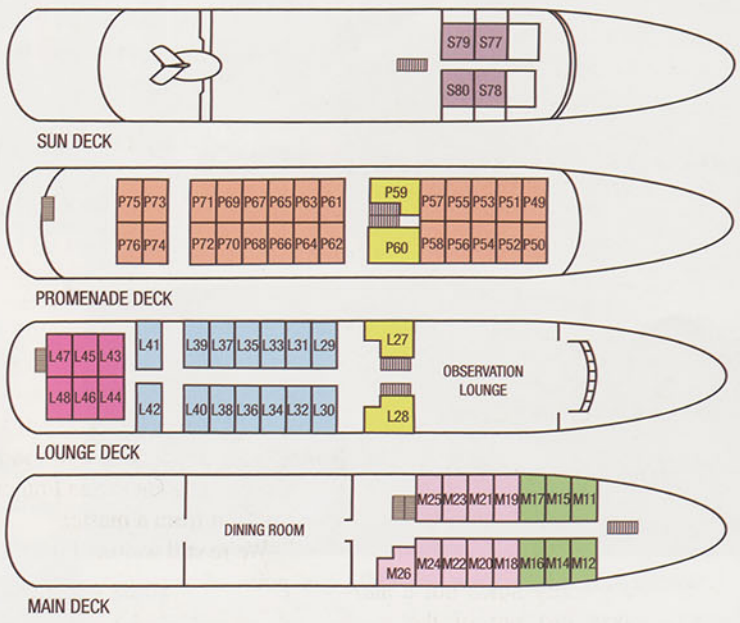

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Marketplace Changes

by Sally Mitani

Chela's South

Turkey, not pork, at Stone Plaza

Adrian Iraola is an engineer used to overseeing complex projects, most recently the new underground parking structure next to the library. His wife, Lori, runs a riding school out of their Lodi Township home. But they were complete novices when it came to running restaurants.

Their midlife decision to open not one, but two Mexican restaurants must have sounded a little loco to anyone who has owned one. Though **Chela's** on South Maple managed to open slightly ahead of schedule in June, few people were surprised that their second restaurant at Stone Plaza fell behind. In early November, the Iraolas were finally at the shopping center at Ellsworth and Stone School roads, testing the ice machine and stocking the cooler for a mid-November opening.

The reason for the delay, Lori explains, was not the demands of restaurant owning but a tragedy in their lives: Around the time the first restaurant was opening, her father, Edward Skipper, was diagnosed with advanced cancer. Skipper—who grew up in the kitchen of the Old German restaurant, where his mother was a cook for thirty-five years—died over the summer.

"It was a rough summer," says Lori. "It took us a little while to get reoriented." The one positive note was that the delay gave them time to apply what they'd learned on Maple: "We never dreamed we'd have the kind of numbers we've had on a daily basis," she says. "We had to learn how much to prep—that was the main learning curve."

The Iraolas' Stone Plaza neighbor, the Mediterranean Market, draws a large Muslim clientele with its bakery, produce, and halal meats; out of respect, this Chela's will have no pork on the menu. The Iraolas are substituting turkey instead—turkey *pastor* and turkey chorizo in the tacos, turkey ham in the Cuban sandwich.

Chela (rhymes with "Stella") is Adrian Iraola's mother's name and a common diminutive for lots of Latina names: "Celia, Cecilia, Graciela—they often get shortened to Chela," says Lori. Adrian met Lori in Ann Arbor twenty-four years ago. On their first date, he says, "I was making her enchiladas, and I put on some salsa music. I grabbed her and started dancing." He was amazed: "I was like, Wow! You *do* know how to dance! It's like I'm dancing with a Latin woman! And the rest is history."

Their three kids helped out in the restaurant over the summer. Andrew, twenty-one, at Kalamazoo College, is too far away to help much now, but nineteen-year-old Nicole, at Albion, "is only forty-five minutes away," says Lori. "I've called her and said '[sixteen-year-old] Anna's got a soccer game, and daddy's got to take her, can you please come home?'"

Trading parking structures for Mexican food, Adrian Iraola opened Chela's with his wife, Lori.

"Nicole can make a tasty guacamole and salsa," adds Adrian. Adrian also does a lot of the cooking at Chela's, "to maintain authenticity of the flavors."

Chela's, 4079 Stone School (Stone Plaza), 973–5554. Mon.–Sat. 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 10:30 a.m.–8 p.m. chelasannarbor.com

Neo-Neapolitan

Why Joe Sheena doesn't deliver

Joe Sheena proudly holds out a *margherita* pizza just out of the oven and gives it a shake. A few bubbles appear—it looks almost soupy. This is exactly the effect he's after. It's a "neo-Neapolitan" pizza. Neapolitan-style pizzas (and their neo cousins—the difference between them is a technical dispute best left to experts) have a higher moisture content than the pizza most of us are used to, and they're cooked quickly in fantastically hot ovens. "Our pizzas are done in two or two-and-a-half minutes," says Sheena. With a crisp, charred crust and wet center, they don't travel well—which is why Sheena's **Neo Papalis** restaurant on the ground floor of Zaragon West doesn't deliver.

About the extent of their portability is upstairs to the new student apartments, but really, says Sheena, they're best eaten in the airy, modern restaurant. He's right next door to the Original Cottage Inn and just down the block from NYPD, but he doesn't view either as a competitor. The Original Cottage Inn is really a full-service Italian restaurant, not a pizza joint, and NYPD is "a totally different kind of pizza," he says.

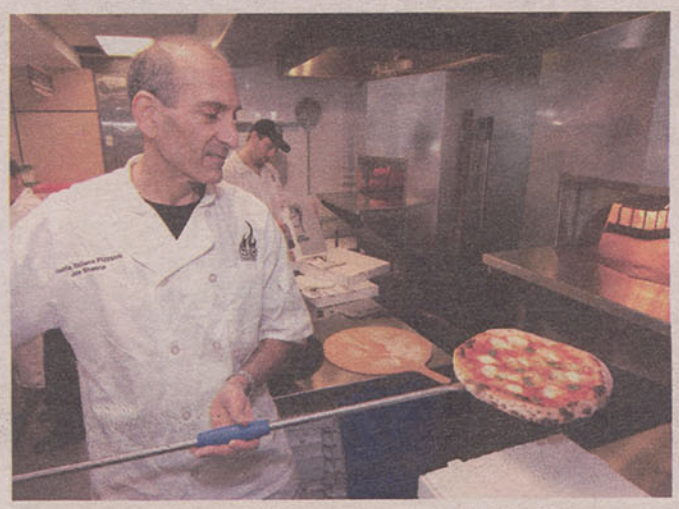
Sheena, wearing chef whites dotted with tomato sauce, bears a spooky resemblance to the Sopranos' favorite chef, Artie Bucco. Sheena isn't Italian and has never heard the Artie Bucco comparison, "but I've heard James Taylor and Steve Jobs," he laughs.

Customers walk down a cafeteria line, choosing one of four base pizzas (margherita—the favorite—white, classica, and the vegan red marinara), assembled to order. To those, you can add additional toppings, but they're all twelve-inchers with light, thin, slightly charred crust, made from dough made in house and aged for thirty hours. Sheena fell in love with this style of pizza on a trip to Naples with his wife and went to San Francisco to learn to make it from a master.

"We're still waiting for our beer license, a point of massive frustration," he says. "Our intention is to sell local, Michigan micro-brewed beers, all draft, and maybe four or five kinds of wine. No liquor."

Sheena has been making pizzas since 1986, when his first Chicago-style Pizza Papalis opened in Detroit's Greektown. He's the founder of two regional chains—Pizza Papalis and Rio Wraps. He likes to spend a lot of time on site when he opens a new restaurant and will be working full time as pizza chef here for awhile.

Neo Papalis also sells salads and sandwiches with a pita-like bread made from the same pizza dough.



Neo Papalis owner Joe Sheena isn't Italian and has never heard the Artie Bucco comparison, "but I've heard James Taylor and Steve Jobs," he laughs.

Neo Papalis, 500 E. William, 929–2227. Sun.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–midnight, Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–2:30 a.m. neopapalis.com

Briefly Noted

Ann Arbor has never had a Tunisian restaurant, and soon there will be two (see

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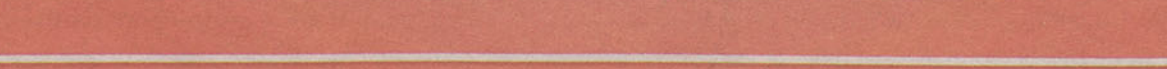

Marketplace Changes

In the Works for the second).

First to the finish line was Sihem Naghmouchi Benaich, who opened **Sihem's Tunisian Deli** in November. It was easy—she and her husband, Saber Naghmouchi, are the owners of Tienda la Libertad, which already has a restaurant inside it called Taco King. And it was too tempting. There she was, a good Tunisian cook with a commercial kitchen at hand.

Taco King and Sihem's Tunisian Deli are, in fact, the same restaurant, though they plan to keep both names. The menu boards are displayed side by side, and Mexican breads and cakes are stacked on top of the deli case of *tagine* and tabbouleh.

Sihem has a master's degree in biomedicine from Tunisia. She says as soon as she has the deli squared away and gets used to being the mother of two (three-month-old Yusef and two-year-old Myraim), she wants to start in a PhD program at U-M. For her master's thesis she studied the medicinal properties of marjoram and oregano and uses them liberally in her cooking.

In addition to more recognizable Mediterranean fare like lentil soup and hummus, her menu includes *merguez* (lamb sausage), Tunisian tagine (unlike the Moroccan stew of the same name, this tagine is more like a frittata), a grilled salad called *meshweeah,* and *harissa,* a hot chili paste. Sihem also caters and delivers.

Sihem's Tunisian Deli, 2231 W. Liberty, 585–5796. Daily 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

Pop-ups are a new trend in the restaurant world, but artists have been doing pop-ups for ages. They're called craft shows and they're sick of it! "It's a lot of work setting tents up, taking tents down. Is the weather going to be good? Was it advertised? It's always an unknown," says Cindy Morphew, manager of **Sisters Art & Gifts.**

Thinking some local artists might want a permanent place to pitch their tents, Jennifer Counihan started Sisters Art & Gifts last year in Westland. "Artists rent their space," says Morphew, "and as part of their contract, they work three days a month." Sisters did so well in Westland, that Counihan took a six-month lease at Briarwood (Sears corridor, next to Town Cobbler). "With the constant traffic in a mall, you're pretty sure someone is going to see you, and we have climate control," says Morphew.

"Sisters" is short for Sisters in Christ: "We're a group of Christian women," says Morphew, referring to the founders. Aside from some general "peace" and "love" messaging, there's no religious theme to most of the art, and male artists also rent space there. In fact, Sisters carries quite a bit of sport-themed photos, coasters, and silk-screened T-shirts, as well as jewelry, granite trays, homemade fudge, soap, and Morphew's own photo collages. "About ninety percent" of the gallery, Morphew says, is work by Michigan artists, supplemented by a few mass-produced gifts, like Himalayan salt lamps and beaded flipflops.

Sisters Art & Gifts, Briarwood Mall. 10 a.m.–9 p.m. daily. 904–5813.

Tim Galea, president of **Norton's Flowers & Gifts,** is scrambling to get his Ann Arbor store moved into its new west-side space by Thanksgiving, when the holiday flower season starts: "it's all about centerpieces, taking them to your host," he says. And, by the way, if you're looking for a local product, you could do worse than a poinsettia. His all come from greenhouses in the Toledo area.

Norton's is a 120-year-old business that used to have its own local greenhouses. The main store is in Ypsi, but there's also been a small store in Westgate. Ever since Kroger moved to an adjacent site on Maple in the late 1990s, Galea says, "we've been looking for a space in the neighborhood with more visibility."

The new store is a few doors down from Biggby Coffee and across the street from Zingerman's Roadhouse. Like many flower shops, Norton's tries to be a one-stop shop for gifts. Galea reels them off: "greeting cards; gifts for men, women, newborns; crystal; candy; religious and inspirational gifts; personal accessories like scarves. And that's not even getting into the holiday gifts. December is a beautiful time in our stores."

Norton's Flowers & Gifts, 2558 W. Stadium, 769–9100. Mon.–Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Sun. nortonsflowers.com

In the Works

Maple Miller Plaza (as it's called, though it has no sign and no frontage on Miller) has been the site of interesting, if not always long-lived, food experiments, like the Mercado Sabor Latino. It will now be revitalized with two new food stops, both of which hope to be in full swing by early next year.

Several years ago, personal trainer Susan Todoroff began catering and delivering healthy prepared food (you can buy her salads at Vie Fitness). Recently her **Juicy Kitchen** has been operating out of a commercial kitchen hidden on the backside of Maple Miller Plaza. That made Todoroff one of the first to know about the vacancy left by Maple Gardens (see Closings, below), and she snapped it up. "There are whole neighborhoods out here," she says, gesturing west and north, "and a real lack of places where you can get a healthy breakfast and a good cup of coffee." She hopes to have her café open by the first of the year, serving Mighty Good coffee, breakfast sliders, and quinoa bowls.

Meanwhile, Susan Thomas and Khaled Houamed are planning to open **El Harissa Market Café,** a Tunisian café, deli, and market, a few doors down in the former Mercado Sabor Latino. The couple, who met in London twenty-five years ago when Khaled was a PhD student, hope to have part of the market open sometime in December. In January they'll be taking over the commercial kitchen when Todoroff vacates it, and they hope to be selling their own food by February. Like what? "Well," says Thomas, the cook in the family (a Londoner, she says her grandmother cooked "in the big houses, as in *Upstairs Downstairs*"), "there's a wonderful sandwich called *fricasse*—fried bread filled with tuna, potatoes, and harissa," the North African spicy chili paste. "She's an amazing couscous-maker," says Khaled. He adds, "we'll be educating the community about the Berber culture, and helping the traditional farmers and producers in North Africa to achieve a good living." They hope to import free-trade olive oil from Tunisia. "People in Ann Arbor will pay $20 for a bottle of olive oil, and they need to know that sometimes the farmer is only making a few cents."

The little wedge of land between the West Stadium post office and Boulevard Plaza (Arbor Farms/Barnes Ace Hardware) was suddenly full of bulldozers and stacks of concrete block this fall. It's being turned into a **Fiat** dealership—"a studio, it's called. Six cars in the showroom and six sales consultants. All service will be done across the street [at Suburban Chrysler Jeep]," says Ron MacEachern, general manager of both dealerships.

MacEachern explains that when Troy-based Suburban Collection bought the Chrysler Jeep dealership over the summer, the large company with about thirty dealerships across Michigan (including Chevy and Buick dealers on Jackson Road) also had a franchise for a Fiat dealership—one of only three Chrysler doled out in Michigan. And the clock was ticking—the franchise had to open by the end of the year. Originally, Suburban had planned to put it in Novi, but "the demographics in Ann Arbor were much more in line with the Fiat brand. The Ann Arbor community is open to European styling and conscientious about fuel economy," he says.

So Suburban hurriedly bought the lot across the street, and began knocking down the former gas station on the spot, which most recently was used as a detail center for the dealership's used cars.

Another dealership poised to open by the end of the year is Mack Johnson's **MINI dealership** on Jackson. "We are ninety percent done. I'm working hard to get open before the end of the year," he emails.

More bulldozers are at work on Ellsworth, just east of State, on the site of what was once Great Lakes Steakhouse and, more recently, Enzo's Sports Bar. A Choice Quick Lube mechanic next door confirmed that a long-promised **Tim Horton's** is finally materializing (though another has opened up the road at Ann Arbor Gateway). Tim Horton's corporate didn't return calls and emails.

Closings

Maple Gardens, the Chinese restaurant in the Maple Miller Plaza, has closed. There's not much to explain, says landlord Maher Jaboro: "I think that business dropped. There are a ton of other Chinese restaurants in the area, and none of them are doing great. I had lunch there one day, and it was only OK." It will be replaced by Juicy Kitchen (see In the Works, above). ■

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email sallymitani@gmail.com or leave voicemail at 769–3175 x 309.

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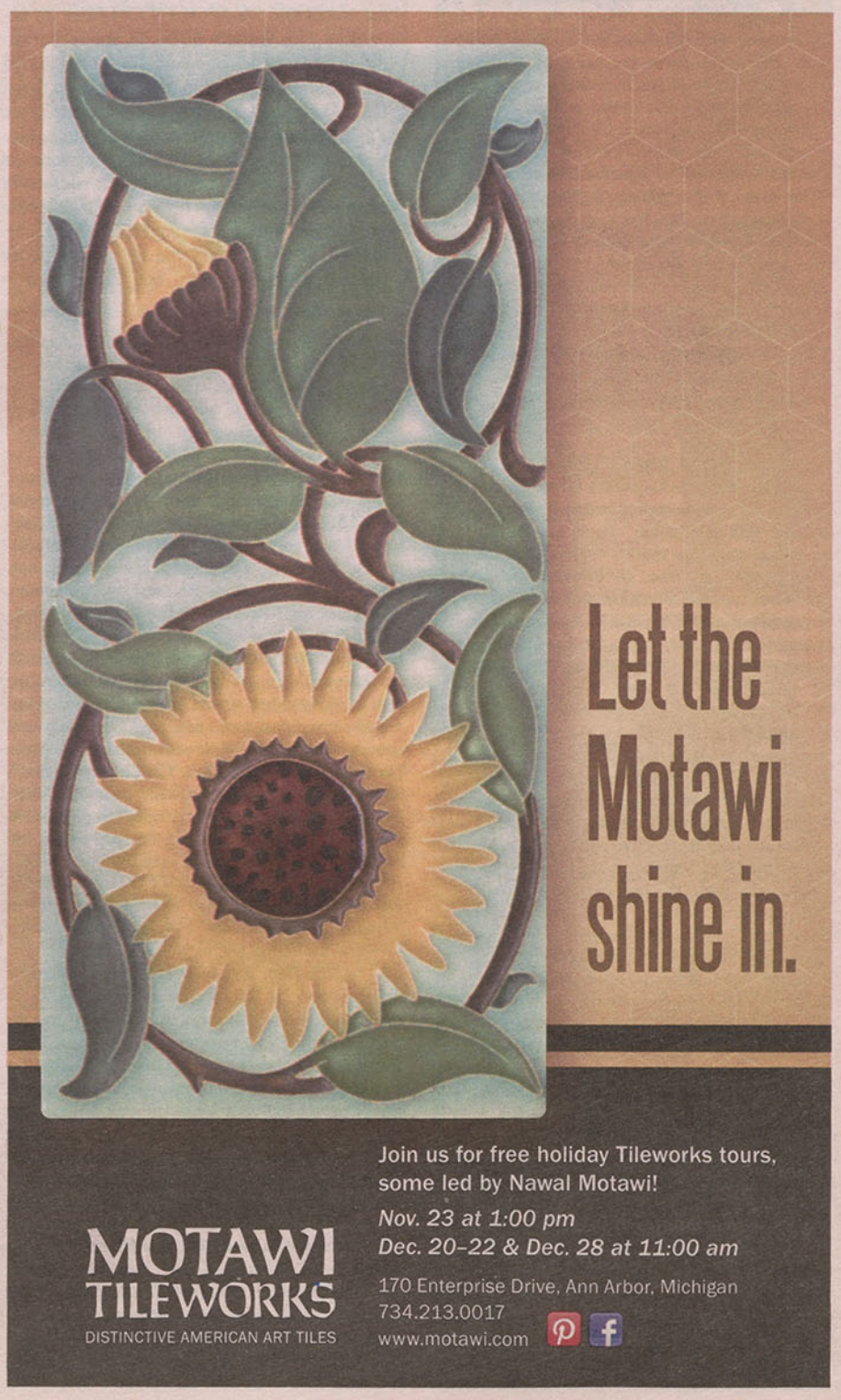
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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.*

The Arena

203 E. Washington 222–9999

This downtown sports bar features live music Mon. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.** (except Dec. 24 & 31)**: Laith Al-Saadi Trio.** An eclectic mix of roots Americana, classic rock, and blues, including many originals, by a jazz-tinged, jam-oriented trio led by local singer-guitarist Al-Saadi. With Macpodz drummer Griffin Bastian and bassist Ben Luttermoser.

The Ark

316 S. Main 761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon.–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com), and theark.org; and at the door. **Dec. 1: Tim O'Brien.** *See review, p. 53.* Acoustic folk-country by this multi-instrumental string virtuoso who was a founding member of the influential 80s bluegrass band Hot Rize. His music draws on and exploits affinities among an array of idioms, including bluegrass, country, old-time, and Celtic music, and his songs have been covered by the likes of the Dixie Chicks, Garth Brooks, and Kathy Mattea. He's also released an acclaimed collection of bluegrass-based covers of Dylan songs, *Red on Blonde,* and his brand-new CD is *Reincarnation: The Songs of Roger Miller.* $20. **Dec. 2: Ari Hest.** Young New York City singer-songwriter who writes literate, thoughtful, earnestly introspective songs on personal themes and whose vocal style has been described as a cross between James Taylor and Peter Gabriel. $17.50. **Dec. 4: "Bill Kirchen Honky Tonk Holiday Show."** Ann Arbor native (and former Commander Cody guitarist) Kirchen leads his Washington, D.C., ensemble that plays a versatile mix of hard-core honky-tonk, rockabilly, acoustic swing, and countrypolitan balladry. The *Austin American–Statesman* recently praised Kirchen's "no-nonsense diesel guitar attack, powered by great booming, bottom-heavy licks still covered with axle grease." He is usually joined in their local shows by various luminaries of the local music scene. $20. **Dec. 5: Cherish the Ladies.** First local appearance in more than a decade by this hugely popular NYC-based 6-woman Irish-American ensemble that's known for its fresh and lively performances of a great array of traditional Irish instrumental music, song, and dance. Tonight's program is "Celtic Christmas." $30. **Dec. 6: The Wheeler Brothers.** Up-and-coming young Austin-based Americana folk-rock quintet that recently released its debut CD, *Portraits.* Opening act is **Bronze Radio Return,** a Hartford roots-rock sextet. $15. **Dec. 7: Melissa Ferrick.** Lesbian folk-rock singer-songwriter from Boston known for her quirky sense of humor, nuanced emotional range, intense but enigmatic stage presence, and dexterous guitar work. "She appeared at times to be channeling Bruce Springsteen and Rickie Lee Jones simultaneously," said a *Boston Globe* critic in a review of one of her concerts. Opening act is **Anne Heaton,** a NYC-based pop-folk singer-songwriter and pianist who cites Peter Gabriel, Tori Amos, and the Indigo Girls as her main influences. $20. **Dec. 8: Caravan of Thieves.** Gypsy-flavored acoustic swing by this quartet led by the Bridgeport (CT) husband-and-wife duo of Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni. The band is know for its theatrical, fun-filled live shows in which the audience is invited to clap, stomp, and sing along. $15. **Dec. 10: "An Evening with Maia Sharp & AG.** These 2 singer-songwriters share the stage. Sharp is a country-pop singer-songwriter whose work has provoked comparisons to the likes of Joni Mitchell, Laura Nyro, and Karla Bonoff. She's best known through covers of her songs by everyone from the Dixie Chicks to Trisha Yearwood, but her recent CDs, including the brand-new *Change the Ending,* showcase her own richly expressive, seductively soulful voice. "Maia is making some of the most innovative and soulful music around with songs that are head and shoulders above the rest. She has become one of my favorite artists," says Bonnie Raitt. AG is the stage name of Adrianne Gonzalez, a Miami native best known from her many songs recorded with members of the harmony-driven quartet The Rescues that have been featured in TV soundtracks. She also has an acclaimed new CD of Beatles covers. **Dec. 11: Lee Murdock.** Murdock is a Great Lakes troubadour who writes songs about the lives of sailors and fishermen, lighthouse keepers, ghosts, outlaws, and everyday heroes. His music blends ragtime, Irish, blues, and folk styles, and he accompanies himself on 6- and 12-string guitars. Tonight he performs his **"Christmas Ship Concert,"** a family concert commemorating a late 19th-century tradition. At the end of the lumber season, Great Lakes captains would carry a final cargo heralding the holiday season with decks piled high with fresh-cut evergreen trees and garlands. $15. **Dec. 12: Shawn Colvin.** A highly regarded singer-songwriter who has been compared to Joni Mitchell and Tracy Chapman, Colvin is known for her storytelling flair, pop smarts, and arresting blend of emotional intensity and sardonic wit. She has an acclaimed new CD, *All Fall Down,* that *PopMatters* writer Will Layman praises for its "sustained mood, its clarity of vision, its consistently lovely orchestration, and its pungent and specific lyrics." $42.50. **Dec. 13: Over the Rhine.** Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. They also have some terrific Christmas songs they trot out this time of year. The band's Ark shows usually sell out in advance. Opening act is **Ben Sollee,** a singer-songwriter and classically trained cellist whose music draws on Appalachian, chamber pop, jazz, and blues idioms. $30. **Dec. 14: The Klezmatics.** *See review, p. 71.* Acclaimed New York City klezmer band that mixes the traditional East European dance and party music with avant-garde jazz styles. Tonight's show is a Hanukkah celebration. $30. **Dec. 15: Erin Zindle & Friends Holiday Show.** Zindle, the frontwoman of the classy local progressive country-rock band The Ragbirds who has just released her debut solo CD, *Scenes from the Fragile, Agile Avian World,* is joined by assorted local musicians for a program of new and old holiday music. $15. **Dec. 16: Riders in the Sky.** This innovative, often comical Nashville-based quartet of ace musicians has revitalized the genre of the cowboy song. Inspired by the 1930s group the Sons of the Pioneers, the quartet includes former Herb David staffer "Ranger" Doug Green. They specialize in elaborate harmonizations of cowboy folk songs, western ballads, and sentimental Hollywood versions of the real thing—one of their CDs is a collection of Gene Autry tunes. Their repertoire also includes old-time fiddle pieces, some jazz numbers, virtuoso yodels, comic send-ups of western drama, and rope tricks. Opening act is Riders in the Sky founding bassist **Fred LaBour,** a singer-songwriter known for comic songs like "Who Offed Hoffa." $25. **Dec. 17: BETTY.** This cabaret-style pop-rock quintet fronted by a trio of female vocalists is known for its brainy and bawdy blend of wild humor, trashy theatrics, and ironic original songs written from a deliciously ill-bred feminist perspective and often performed a cappella. Its music has been described as a cross between the B-52s, Joni Mitchell, and Parliament Funkadelic. A longtime local favorite, BETTY returns to town for the first time since 2008. $19. **Dec. 18: Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band.** Sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble founded shortly after WW II by Hugh Borde and currently composed of Borde and several members of his family. $15. **Dec. 19: Kitty Donohoe.** Irish-American singer-songwriter from Detroit known for her bell-like soprano—it's been described as "rich, flexible, soaring, and haunting"—and her grittily realistic, bluesy original story songs. $15. **Dec. 20: Delbert McClinton.** Legendary Texas honky-tonk singer-songwriter whose music effortlessly melds country, blues, rock 'n' roll, and R&B traditions. A superb blues harpist, McClinton got his start as a teenager in the 50s backing blues masters like Howlin' Wolf and Jimmy Reed in San Antonio bars. Though his own records have typically enjoyed only a cult following, the likes of Emmylou Harris and Vince Gill have turned songs of his into hits, and he has recorded hit duets with Bonnie Raitt, Tanya Tucker, and others. McClinton's gotten even better with age: his recent recordings evince a relaxed mastery without losing the gritty swagger and drive that's always distinguished his music, and his 2009 CD *Acquired Taste* topped the *Billboard* blues chart. $50. **Dec. 21: Black Jake & the Carnies.** *See review, above.* Popular Ypsilanti octet that calls its energetic, foot-stomping blend of punk, old-time music, and bluegrass "crabgrass." The band has a recent CD, *Sundry Mayhems,* which according to *Deep Cutz* writer Jeff Milo, features "blurring see-saw strings, a mean washboard, a wheezy accordion, angular, tinny banjos and mandolins and zingy, mercurial (yet melodious) lead vocals girded by poignant, rousing choruses (even some opera mixed in), at 0–60-and-back-again tempos." Opening act is **Lac La Belle,** a Detroit Western swing-based acoustic Americana trio led by singer-songwriter Jennie Knaggs. **Dec. 22: The RFD Boys & Friends.** This popular local bluegrass institution is joined by several friends TBA. $11. **Dec. 28 & 29: Crossroads Ceili.** Two evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance headlined by **Bua,** a quartet of talented young American musicians that plays traditional Irish music. Also, traditional Irish dancer Nick Gareiss and **Mick Gavin & Friends,** veteran Detroit Irish music ensemble led by fiddler (and county Clare native) Gavin. $15. 7:30 p.m.

crabgrass

Black Jake & the Carnies

A musical event

Black Jake stands at the front of the stage, dressed like a ringmaster, his banjo adorned with Christmas lights. He stands resolute, barely moving amid the chaos that surrounds him, yet he cranks out lyrics like an auctioneer. Meanwhile, the members of his band, the Carnies, bop, dance, jump, mosh, and play the heck out of their instruments. The music is fast paced: a little bit punk, a little bit bluegrass, with some rock, ragtime, Americana, and blues mixed in. Welcome to Black Jake and the Carnies and their signature "Crabgrass" sound.

The band is the brainchild of Jake Zettelmaier, or Black Jake, as he's known on stage. Zettelmaier writes the songs, handles most of the singing, plays banjo, and gives the Carnies free rein. The Carnies consist of "Jumpin'" Joe Cooter on bass, Billy "Kingpen" Lalonde on drums and washboard, J.C. Miller on accordion, Gus Wallace on fiddle, and recent addition Andy Benes on mandolin. Benes joined shortly after the breakup of his previous band, Back Forty, and he replaces longtime Carnie Zach Pollack, who moved out of state. Noticeably lacking from the Carnie arsenal is guitar. That's an instrument Zettelmaier never planned on not having, but now he takes pride in it. There were guitar players in early incarnations of the Carnies, but they didn't work out for various reasons, and Zettelmaier is happy to have the Carnies be that rare band without guitar.

A Black Jake and the Carnies show is certainly about the music, but not only the music. It's also an event, and the band takes events seriously. Costumes are worn, usually matching outfits for the Carnies and something a tad more elaborate for the front man. Carnival games are played as well, with plenty of audience participation. In a version of ring toss, colored rings are dispersed into the crowd and fans try to toss them onto the heads of the Carnies, who wear special hats with ring-catching stakes atop them. There is also a game for which Cooter, wearing a Velcro suit, bangs out notes on his bass and crisscrosses the stage in his version of Chuck Berry's duck walk, while the audience throws Velcro balls at him—the idea being to get as many as possible to stick to his suit.

"Crabgrass" is a fairly distinct sound, but perhaps the Pogues in their heyday are a close comparison. The instruments are for the most part the same, both mix traditional and punk elements, and the stage energy and live recklessness is equal. Black Jake and the Carnies have introduced "crabgrass" to Europe and have played at Muddy Roots, the premier outlaw country festival in the United States. The band takes its act to the Ark on December 21, with opening act Lac La Belle, for what promises to be an eventful night of music and fun.

—Chris Berggren

The B-Side

310 E. Washington 214–9995

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 1: Joey Strides Forth.** Community High garage rock band featuring former members of Sole Transit and the Ins & Outs. Opening acts are **Absence of a Hero,** a Nirvana-inspired alternative rock band, and **The Veins,** a Huron High alternative rock band. **Dec. 8: Undecided.** Saline High alternative rock band that won the 2012 Ann Arbor Summer Festival Rock the Mall competition. Opening acts are **Infinity Hour,** a local pop-punk band, and **Saturday,** a West Bloomfield rock quartet whose influences range from the Ramones to Joe Jackson to Green Day.

Bar Louie
401 E. Liberty **794–3000**

This downtown tavern features live music Wed. 8–11:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Black Pearl.

The Black Pearl
302 S. Main **222–0400**

This seafood and martini bar features live music Tues. & Wed., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.** (except Dec. 25)**: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 5: Beth Stalker & Jim Rawlings.** An eclectic mix of styles, from blues, R&B, and jazz to rock and country, by the Detroit Music Award–winning duo of singer-songwriter Stalker and songwriter-guitarist Rawlings. **Dec. 12: Jody Raffoul.** Canadian pop-rock singer-songwriter who's been described as a hybrid of Bono and Bruce Springsteen. He is joined by backup vocalist and guitarist **Wes Buckley. Dec. 19: Lucas Paul.** Local pop-rock singer-songwriter, accompanied by keyboardist Adam Rogers. **Dec. 26:** TBA.

The Blind Pig
208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the 8-Ball Saloon (below the club) and at etix.com. **Every Tues.** (except Dec. 25)**: "Showcase Night."** With 4 young local bands TBA. **Dec. 1: S.U.N.** Veteran local hip-hop MC who is back by the local hip-hop ensemble **Gorilla Funk Mob.** Opening act is **Mama Sol & tha N.U.T.S.,** a Detroit-area neo-soul hip-hip quartet. **Dec. 2: Ill. Gates.** San Francisco–based Canadian electronic music DJ. Opening acts are **Stephen Jacobs,** a West Coast electronica musician, and **Jay Fay,** a St. Louis electronica musician who specializes in bass-heavy underground styles. Advance tickets: $15. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 5: The King Khan & BBQ Show.** Critically acclaimed veteran Montreal-based garage punk duo whose music draws on everything from doo-wop to death metal. **Dec. 6: Another Grand Design.** New local quintet that describes its music as "Radiohead and Stones meet Dylan and the Byrds." Opening acts are **The Dark Horse,** a local rock band, and **The Charlie Dentel Band,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Dentel that plays soulful blues-, jazz-, and gospel-based pop originals. **Dec. 7: Ann Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Dec. 8:** TBA. **Dec. 12: Koffin Kats.** Detroit-area psychobilly punk band. Advance tickets: $10. **Dec. 13: This Is Everything.** Petersburg (MI) pop-punk quintet. Opening acts are the local rock trio **Wednesday in May,** the Temperance rock quintet **Hour 24,** and **Astoria,** a Pinckney alternative rock trio fronted by vocalist Lily McPhee. **Dec. 14:** TBA. **Dec. 15: "The Punks Who Stole Christmas."** With several top area punk and postpunk bands, including the Detroit garage punk quartet **Glitter Trash,** veteran Detroit hard-rock band **60 Second Crush,** the all-female punk-rock band **Manic's Rage,** the Ypsilanti punk-rockabilly Elvis tribute band **Devil Elvis,** and the Detroit punk-rock quartet **The Luckouts,** along with a guest performance by the godfather of the local punk scene, Cult Heroes frontman **Hiawatha Bailey. Dec. 19: The Alcoholic Oracles.** Concord (MI) country-based blues-rock duo. Opening acts are the Bjork-influenced Detroit electronica trio **Charms,** the Kalamazoo rock band **How about Jam,** and the local acoustic old-time trio **Work for Wings. Dec. 20: "The End of the World Party."** With the local experimental pop singer-songwriter **Absofacto,** the local hip-hop ensemble **Celsius Electronics,** the Detroit Eno-esque psychedelic electropop quintet **Flashclash,** and **Wild at Heart. Dec. 21: The Nothing.** Local punk band that's reuniting to celebrate the end of the world—or at least the world as calibrated by the Mayans. Opening acts are the local almost all-female postpunk avant-jazz quintet **Pussy Pirates,** the Chicago postpunk trio **Paper Mice,** and the local punk band **Suicide by Cop. Dec. 22:** TBA. **Dec. 26:** Closed. **Dec. 27: Kenji Urada.** Brooklyn (NY) alternative rock quartet. Opening acts are **In Fact,** an Ypsilanti atmospheric electronica quartet, and **Supercollider,** a local self-styled "cosmic pop-rock" band. **Dec. 28:** TBA. **Dec. 29:** TBA. **Dec. 31: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock.

The Circus
210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This 2nd-floor downtown club features live music on Wed. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. DJ on Thurs., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (except for age 21 & older), dancing. Also, live music or karaoke on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. in the street-level **Millennium Club** or basement **Cavern Club** (cover with dancing in these clubs). Age 21 & older admitted on Wed. & Thurs., age 18 & older on Fri. & Sat. **Dec. 8: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. Cover, dancing. In the Cavern Club. **Dec. 14: "Motor City Live." The Last of the Badmen,** a Southern California-based punk-rock super group founded by pro skateboarders Art & Steve Godoy and featuring guitarists Dennis Tek of Radio Birdman and Troy Zak of The Daggers and The Curb Slappy vocalist Daniel Creadon, and **The Kyle Davis Project.** Also, an opening act TBA. Emcee is WCSX DJ Doug Podell. In the Millennium Club. 8:30 p.m.–2 a.m. **Dec. 15: Killer Flamingos.** See above. In the Cavern Club. **Dec. 28–30: Back Forty.** Local acoustic string jam quintet that plays a brand of twangy roots-folk music fused with elements of jazz and psychedelic rock that it calls "down-home funkgrass." In the Cavern Club. **Dec. 31: Killer Flamingos.** See above. In the Cavern Club. **Dec. 31: Riot House.** Windsor 80s and 90s rock cover band. In the Millennium Club.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30–10 p.m. and Mon., Thurs., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Fri. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.** (except Dec. 25)**: Shaun Gareth Walker.** Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Dec. 1: The Hip Replacements.** Local septet that plays classic rock, soul, and blues. **Dec. 6: Jerry Sprague.** Veteran local roots-rock singer-guitarist. **Dec. 8: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 13: All Directions.** Canton quintet led by keyboardist Michael Ager and featuring vocalist Kimberly Ringer that plays a versatile mix of R&B, blues-rock, Motown, and jazz. **Dec. 15: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **Dec. 20: The Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Dec. 22: The Shelter Dogs.** See Mash. **Dec. 27: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Dec. 29: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See above.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main **665–9468**

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8:30–10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Dec. 7: Marco and Asim.** Folk-rock and blues by the local duo of singer-guitarist Marco Bruschtein and bassist Asim Khan. **Dec. 8: Heather Styka.** Highly-regarded young pop-folk singer-songwriter from Chicago whose engagingly melodic, stylishly literate songs have provoked comparisons to the likes of Joni Mitchell and Suzanne Vega. **Dec. 14: Dan Hazlett.** This Detroit-area singer-songwriter and guitarist plays an eclectic mix of blues-, R&B-, folk-, and jazz-influenced originals on topics that range from the outlandish to the sublime. **Dec. 15: Bill Edwards.** Local country-folk singer-songwriter Edwards, the 1989 winner of the *Billboard* Country Songwriting Contest whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown. His collaboration with former Ann Arborite Whit Hill, "What'd I Do," was featured in the HBO series *True Blood,* and he recently released his 5th CD, *My Kind of Crazy.* **Dec. 21: Ryan Racine, John Holk, and Jennifer Jean Smith.** In-the-round performances by this local trio—alt-country honky-tonk and rockabilly singer-songwriter Racine, psychedelic honky-tonk singer-songwriter Holk, and country-folk singer-songwriter Smith. **Dec. 22: Bittersweet Christmas Band.** Holiday music in a wide range of moods, from the reverent to the ridiculous, by this seasonal Chicago-based acoustic quartet known for its delicious vocal harmonies. **Dec. 28: John Latini.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this popular veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. He has a new CD, *Lovers, Liars & Losers.* **Dec. 29: Joel Palmer.** Veteran Detroit singer-guitarist whose repertoire includes vintage and original blues, swing, and folk-style tunes.

Creekside Grill and Bar
5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate basement bar in this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 30: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. With vocalists Jim Tarravantes and Patty O'Connor. 6:30–9 p.m.

Elks Neighborhood Kitchen
220 Sunset **761–7172**

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features soul food and live jazz, blues, & rock Thurs.–Sat. 6–10 p.m. Also, DJs, Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, usually no cover except for DJ shows. Members and guests welcome. **Every Thurs.:** TBA. **Every Fri.: Tim Haldeman Trio.** Blues- and bebop-based jazz in a variety of styles and forms by this local ensemble led by saxophonist Haldeman. With bassist Dave Sharp and percussionist Dan Piccolo. **Every Sat.:** TBA.

Guy Hollerin's
3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. & occasional Fri., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. If tickets are available in advance, they are sold at the restaurant. **Dec. 1: Jimmy McCarty & Mystery Train.** Popular rockabilly and roots-rock band led by veteran Detroit guitarist McCarty. **Dec. 8: Saints of Soul.** Detroit R&B, soul, and funk septet fronted by vocalist Sorilbran Stone. **Dec. 9: "Blues to the Rescue."** A Detroit blues quartet led by longtime Etta James guitarist **Bobby Murray** is joined by an all-star lineup of area musicians to raise money for the American Red Cross to aid victims of Hurricane Sandy. With local guitar wiz **George Bedard,** Detroit vocalist **Joce'lyn B,** Lansing vocalist **Twyla Birdsong,** guitar virtuoso **MotorCity Josh Ford,** Detroit vocalist **Tosha Owens,** saxophonist **Joe Labeau,** singer-guitarist **Erich Goebel,** and Groove Council vocalist **Kathleen Murray.** Murray's bandmates include keyboardist Philip Hale, drummer Glenn Giordano, and bassist James Cloyd Jr. Emcee is WEMU music director **Linda Yohn.** $5 minimum donation. 5–8 p.m. **Dec. 15: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Dec. 22: Doug Deming & the Jewel Tones.** Traditional postwar blues, jump blues, and barroom swing by this acclaimed New Baltimore quartet led by singer-guitarist Deming. **Dec. 29:** No music. **Dec. 31: Bluescasters.** Intense, low-down blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet. Opening act is **The Chris Canas Blues Revolution,** a Detroit blues band fronted by young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas. 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

The Habitat Lounge
3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs. 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m., along with jazz Sun. 7–11 p.m. Also, DJ Mon., 7 p.m.–midnight, and solo pianists Tues.–Sun., 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: James Cornelison Quartet.** Jazz originals and standards by this U-M music student ensemble led by electric guitarist Cornelison. **Dec. 1: Dr. Smith.** Detroit classic rock quintet. **Dec. 4–6: Dave Hamilton.** Pop covers by this versatile solo guitarist. **Dec. 7 & 8: The Front Men.** Detroit vintage-rock band. **Dec. 11–13: Green-Eyed Soul.** Windsor pop trio fronted by vocalists Melissa Danese and Fallon Deluca. **Dec. 14 & 15: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Dec. 18–20: Slice.** East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Dec. 21: Dan Rafferty Band.** Popular 8-piece Detroit pop dance band. **Dec. 22: Cancel Monday.** Versatile Livonia dance band fronted by vocalist Deena Shields. **Dec. 25 & 26:** No music. **Dec. 27: Acoustic Rewind.** 80s and 90s pop covers by this Detroit acoustic duo. **Dec. 28, 29, & 31: Brena.** Grand Rapids pop-rock quintet. Also, on Dec. 31, in the Ballroom, a New Year's Eve Dance Party with **The Front Men** (see above).

LIVE
102 S. First St. **623–1443**

This lounge, recently remodeled and under new management, features live music Fri. happy hour 6:30–9 p.m. and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. &

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"American Pie Reunion"
"The Texas Killing Fields"
"Heckler"
NBC's "Up All Night"
HBO's "Treme"
SHOWTIME's "White Boyz in the Hood"
ABC's "Happy Endings"
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Al Jackson
December 13 14 15

NBC's "Last Comic Standing"
"Live at Gotham"
"Friday Night Stand-Up"
MTV's "MVP's" & "F'N MTV"
"Address The Mess Campaign"
Comedy Central "The Weekly Evil"

Mark Knope
December 20 21 22
"Comedy Spotlight on the Road"
"Stand-Up, Stand-up"
"Nightshift" on FOX
"America's Funniest People" and "Comedy at CLUB54"

Reese Waters
December 27 28 29

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Music at Nightspots

Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Dec. 7: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis and Steve Earle. 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 14 & 15: "1st Annual Dragon Wreck Music Festival."** A showcase of 16 area roots-music bands of various stripes over 2 nights hosted by **Dragon Wagon,** a highly regarded local acoustic roots-music sextet that calls its music "bluegrass folk-rock with a touch of Irish whiskey." *Dec. 14:* Dearborn postpunk Celtic-Americana fusion quartet **Ghost City Searchlight,** the Toledo garage rock quintet **People Being Human,** the Ypsilanti folk-rock quintet **Lawless Carver,** the local self-styled "upbeat global soul" pop-jazz jam quartet **October Babies,** the acclaimed Lansing swing-flavored bluegrass band **Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys,** festival host **Dragon Wagon,** and the Flint progressive jam-rock band **Covert.** 6 p.m.–2 a.m. *Dec. 15:* The Ypsilanti funk-inflected rock 'n' roll band **Johnny Lunchbox,** the Chelsea Americana folk-rock quintet **Ben Daniels Band,** the local postpunk pop-folk duo **Match by Match,** the Kalamazoo jam-rock band **Me 3 Mind,** Lansing Americana folk-rock singer-songwriter **Joshua Davis,** local bluegrass fusion band **Rootstand,** the local horn-driven retro funk octet **Third Coast Kings,** festival host **Dragon Wagon,** and the Cincinnati thrash-bluegrass jam band **Rumpke Mountain Boys.** 4 p.m.–2 a.m. **Dec. 21: Steve Newhouse & the Nuke-a-billies.** Veteran local classic country and country-rock band led by singer-guitarist Newhouse. With guitarist Kevin Brown, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Eric Nyhuis. 6–9:30 p.m. **Dec. 28: The Breakers.** Veteran local classic rock band that plays 60s–80s covers. 6–9:30 p.m. **Dec. 31: "Geezer New Year's Party."** With **Drivin' Sideways,** a veteran local band fueled by Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everyone from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. With guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. 6–9 p.m.

Mash
211 E. Washington **222–4095**

This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Wed.–Sat., and occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi Trio.** Soulful rock and blues covers and originals by a trio led by award-winning local singer-guitarist Al-Saadi. With bassist David Stearns and drummer Griffin Bastian. **Dec. 1: The Canastas.** Local vintage jump blues, rockabilly, and rock 'n' roll quintet. **Dec. 7: The Shelter Dogs.** Local self-styled "lounge-a-billy" trio that plays vintage swing, rockabilly, and blues. With upright bassist Todd Perkins, guitarist Pete Bullard, and drummer Tom Twiss. **Dec. 8: The HouseRockers.** Local party quintet that plays 60s rock, blues, and soul. **Dec. 12: Cold Tone Harvest.** Plymouth acoustic roots music trio led by singer-songwriter Andrew Sigworth. **Dec. 14: The Chris Canas Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by Canas, a young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist. **Dec. 15: The Bluescasters.** See Guy Hollerin's. **Dec. 21: Robert Johnson's Blues Band.** Northville band that plays blues-rock originals and traditional blues. **Dec. 22: Broken Arrow Blues Band.** Detroit-area blues band. **Dec. 28: Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies.** Local roots-rock quartet, led by former Starlight Drifters singer-guitarist Mack, whose repertoire includes originals and rockabilly, early rock 'n' roll, western swing, and hillbilly bop covers. **Dec. 29: The Shelter Dogs.** See above.

The Necto
516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 6 nights a week, Mon.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover, dancing.

Old Town
122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 2: The Ridge.** Soulful, funky down-home originals by this progressive American roots music band. **Dec. 9: John Latini.** See Crazy Wisdom. **Dec. 16: Chris Bathgate.** Talented local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic folk-rock story songs in a variety of moods. He has an acclaimed new CD, *Salt Year.* **Dec. 23: Dylan Charles.** Versatile Americana singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and storyteller from Arizona who has released a CD, *Time for Breakfast.* **Dec. 30: Eric Kelly.** Local singer-songwriter who writes raw, Dylanesque folk-style songs.

Oz's Music Environment
1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Dec. 4: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak

The Quarter Bistro
300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs. 6:30–9 p.m., Sat. 7:30–10 p.m., and occasional other nights. Also, a DJ on Fri. 6–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 6: Bob Skon.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Dec. 8: Souls Alike.** Local acoustic folk-rock duo. **Dec. 13: Kevin Wilson.** Classic rock and country singer-guitarist. **Dec. 15: Marsha Gayle.** Veteran Detroit jazz vocalist who specializes in standards associated with Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Carmen McRae, and Billie Holiday. **Dec. 20: Steve Taylor.** Singer-guitarist. **Dec. 22: Terry Jacoby.** Acoustic alternative rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 27: Teddy Richards.** Singer-guitarist (and son of soul legend Aretha Franklin) whose band plays rock 'n' roll and R&B originals and covers. **Dec. 29: All Directions.** Canton quintet, led by keyboardist Michael Ager and featuring vocalist Kimberly Ringer, that plays a versatile mix of R&B, blues-rock, Motown, and jazz.

The Ravens Club
207 S. Main **214–0400**

This downtown bar & grill features live music, Wed. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight. and Sun. 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Ron Brooks Trio.** Mainstream bebop-rooted jazz by this trio led by veteran local bassist Brooks. With pianist Tad Weed and drummer George Davidson. **Every Thurs.: Alex Belhaj New Orleans Trio.** Local ensemble led by guitarist Belhaj that plays a range of New Orleans jazz styles, from struts, stomps, cakewalks, and rags to pop tunes, marches, and classical favorites. **Every Sun.: Heather Schwartz.** Vintage jazz and blues by this talented local singer whose vocal style also reflects gospel, R&B, soul, and hip-hop influences.

Silvio's Organic Pizza
715 North University **214–6666**

This campus-area restaurant features live music Thurs. & Sun. 6–8 p.m., Fri. 7–9 p.m., Sat. 7–8 p.m., and occasional other nights. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: Neal Anderson Quintet.** Local jazz quintet led by trumpeter Anderson. **Every Sat.: DaVinci.** Local composer-pianist, the winner of the 2010 U-M New Music on the Block competition, whose music ranges in style from classical and jazz to Argentine tango and Persian piano music. **Every Sun.: Will Mefford.** Improvisations over jazz standards by this local pianist. **Dec. 7: Liz Royce.** Rock, folk, blues, and country classics by this local torch singer and pianist. **Dec. 14: Isosceles.** Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. **Dec. 21: Steve Rich & Tim Prosser.** The duo of singer-guitarist Rich and singer-songwriter and "mandolin maniac" Prosser perform a mix of acoustic originals and traditional music. Also, a guest musician TBA. **Dec. 28:** TBA.

Tap Room
201 W. Michigan
Ypsilanti **482–5320**

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music most Wed. 7–11 p.m., Thurs. 8 p.m.–midnight, & Sat. and occasional Fri. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, DJ with Latin dance music, Wed. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Dec. 1:** TBA. **Dec. 8: Ann Arbor Music Center.** AAMC adult student band TBA. 6–8 p.m. **Dec. 8:** TBA. **Dec. 15: The Shelter Dogs.** See Mash. **Dec. 22:** TBA. **Dec. 29:** TBA.

Tios
401 E. Liberty **761–6650**

This popular Mexican cafe features live music Fri. 10 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 7: Los Gatos.** Salsa music by this popular local Latin jazz band led by drummer Pete Siers. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. **Dec. 14: Tumbao Bravo.** Cuban jazz quintet led by local saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. 10 p.m.–1 a.m. **Dec. 21: Los Gatos.** See above. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. **Dec. 28:** No music.

Vinology
110 S. Main **222–9841**

This wine bar and restaurant features live jazz, Sun. 6–8 p.m. and occasional Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). **Every Sun.: Marsha Mumm.** Blues, jazz, and pop standards, along with some originals, by this local singer-songwriter, guitarist, and pianist.

Wolverine State Brewing Co.
2019 W. Stadium **369–2990**

This west side brewpub features live music, Tues. 8 p.m.–midnight & some weekends, 8:30 p.m.–12:15 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 4: Flatland Harmony Experiment.** Indianapolis progressive bluegrass trio that calls its music nügrass. **Dec. 6: Jen Sygit.** Lansing singer-songwriter and guitarist known for her bluesy lyrics, down-home music, and sultry vocals. **Dec. 11: Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys.** Acclaimed Lansing swing-flavored bluegrass band led by singer-guitarist Lindsay Lou Rilko that recently released the CD *Release Your Shrouds.* **Dec. 15: Dirty Deville.** Local rock quartet. **Dec. 18: Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys.** See above. **Dec. 21: Kevin & the Glen Levens.** Local quartet whose eclectic repertoire ranges from traditional Irish music to rockabilly, bluegrass, novelty songs, and roots-rock originals. Preceded (6–7 p.m.) by a holiday sing-along led by Glen Levens frontman Kevin Devine. **Dec. 22: Appleseed Collective.** Popular young local acoustic quartet whose music is an enchanting blend of lyric-based folk-rock with Dixieland and gypsy jazz rhythms and harmonies.

Woodruff's
36 E. Cross
Ypsilanti **483–2800**

This club in Ypsilanti's Depot Town features live music Tues. 8–11 p.m., and Wed., Fri., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, karaoke on Thurs. 10 p.m.–1 a.m. and DJ on Sun. & Tues. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (except Tues.), dancing. **Every Tues.: "Acoustic Open Mike."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter **Dave Boutette** and **Eric Santos. Dec. 1:** TBA. **Dec. 5: In Fact.** Ypsilanti atmospheric electronica quartet. Opening acts are **Nightbeast,** an Ypsilanti lo-fi psychedelic-punk quintet, and **Jim Cherewick,** a local folk-rock singer-songwriter who writes intricate, emotionally forthright songs. **Dec. 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, & 26:** TBA. **Dec. 28–Jan. 1: Mittenfest VII.** 5-night showcase of 50 local and Michigan bands in a wide spectrum of genres. Some of the scheduled bands include the Detroit rock trio **Jamaican Queen$,** the Detroit rock 'n' roll quintet **Lightning Love,** the local country-inflected folk-rock band **Misty Lyn & The Big Beautiful, Frontier Ruckus, Shigeto,** the local folk-rock band **Matt Jones & The Reconstruction,** and the Ypsilanti psychedelic soul band **Bad Indians.** Daily lineups available at mittenfest.org. A benefit for the nonprofit youth tutoring and writing center 826michigan. $10 per night. 5 p.m.–2 a.m.

Zal Gaz Grotto
2070 W. Stadium **663–1202**

This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sun. 5–8 p.m., Mon. 7:30–10:15 p.m., Tues. 5:30–8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Mon.** (except Dec. 24 & 31)**: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.** (except Dec. 25)**: Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger.

December Events

We want to know about your event!
Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By email:** hinch@aaobserver.com
- **By phone:** 769–3175
- **By mail:** John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
- **By fax:** 769–3375
- **After-hours drop box:** right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to annarborobserver.com).

annarborobserver.com:
An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at **annarborobserver.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on annarborobserver.com.

arbormail:
Get your alerts by email—send a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at annarborobserver.com/arbormail_help.html.

★ *Denotes a free event.*

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.annarborobserver.com

1 SATURDAY

"Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. A park naturalist, either Jennifer Hollenbeck or Raejean Uehline, leads a hike through a variety of habitats to discover what bird species are in the park. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *8 a.m., Hudson Mills activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $3. Preregistration required. $5 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

"Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Classic": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. *Dec. 1 & 2.* More than 140 teams from across the U.S. and Canada compete in the largest synchronized team skating competition in the world. *8 a.m.–8 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 2), Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $8 (students age 16 & under and seniors, $6; 2-day pass, $15; student & senior 2-day pass, $12). 213–6767.*

★**"Home for the Holidays": Dexter Lions Club.** Activities begin with **breakfast with Santa** with a $1.99 kids menu (8:30–10:30 a.m., Dexter Coney Island). Santa is also at the **downtown gazebo** (11 a.m.–4 p.m.), along with some other surprise characters, to talk with kids. The Dexter Area Museum, Dexter Senior Center, and St. Andrew's United Church of Christ host **holiday craft bazaars** (9 a.m.–3 p.m.). At 4:15 p.m. are the **5K Holiday Hustle** ($29 before Nov. 29 & $35 race weekend for adults, $24 before Nov. 29 and $30 race weekend for age 17 & under), a competitive 5-km run/walk with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories, and **Foresters Frozen 1-Mile Fun Run** ($24 before Nov. 29 & $30 race weekend for adults, $15 before Nov. 29 and $20 race weekend for age 17 & under), with registration available at runholiday5k.com. *8:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m., downtown Dexter. Free admission. 426–1175.*

★**25th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** *Nov. 30–Dec. 2.* Family activities, including Santa visits and crafts. Gingerbread house displays in shop windows, and luminaria along Main St. in the evening. Merchant sales with entertainment and refreshments at many stores. *Nov. 30:* **Tree lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival** (6–6:30 p.m., Pierce Park), **Santa's Workshop** with

Dance Alliance presents its 15th annual production of *The Nutcracker* Dec. 16 at Saline high School.

FILMS

63 Film Screenings — *John Hinchey & Katie Whitney*

GALLERIES

57 Exhibit Openings — *Katie Whitney*

EVENTS REVIEWS

53 Tim O'Brien
Explorer — *James M. Manheim*

59 *The Art Forger*
Mystery on canvas — *Courtney Miller*

65 Anita Ghosh
History and language — *Keith Taylor*

71 Klezmatics
Making Hanukkah happier — *Sandor Slomovits*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

48 Nightspots — *John Hinchey*
Black Jake & the Carnies — *Chris Berggren*

Ypsilanti Area Dancers Presents
The Nutcracker
Ypsilanti High School Auditorium
2095 Packard Road
December 1 at 2pm & 7pm
December 2 at 3pm
$20 Priority
$18 General
$15 Seniors
$15 Students
$20 At the door
Tickets available online at showtix4u.com
ypsilantiareadancers.com

Second Homegrown at the Cobblestone
Handcrafted gifts by local Michigan artists
Cobblestone Farm
2781 Packard @ Buhr Park
2 Sundays
December 2 & Dec. 16
10 am to 5 pm
Hats
Bricolage
Jewelry
Painting
Hand-Woven & Dyed Scarves
Blown Glass
Photography
Greeting Cards
Pottery
Tamales by Pilar's
Plenty of Free Parking

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

December 2012 Concerts

12/1-2

Handel's *Messiah*
UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone, conductor
Julianna Di Giacomo, soprano
Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo-soprano
William Burden, tenor
Morris Robinson, bass
Edward Parmentier, harpsichord
Saturday, December 1, 8 pm
Sunday, December 2, 2 pm
Hill Auditorium

The holiday season in Ann Arbor is never officially underway until the Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union performs Handel's *Messiah*. An Ann Arbor tradition in the beautiful surroundings of Hill Auditorium, these performances are ultimately the heart and soul of UMS, connecting audiences not only with the talented people on stage, but also with the friends and family who attend each year.

Presented with support from: **Carl and Isabelle Brauer Fund**
Media Partners: **Michigan Radio 91.7 FM and Ann Arbor's 107one**

12/8

Dianne Reeves Quartet
with special guest Raul Midón
Saturday, December 8, 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

Born in Detroit to a musical family, Dianne Reeves is now considered one of the pre-eminent jazz vocalists in the world today with unique jazz and R&B stylings and four Grammy Awards for Best Jazz Vocal Performance. This illustrious jazz powerhouse brings her quartet (Peter Martin, Romero Lubambo, Reginald Veal, Terreon Gully) for her first area appearance in five years as part of UMS's celebration of Hill Auditorium's 100th birthday.

This special concert opens with a set by Raul Midón, who unleashes a silky, soulful tenor and dazzling percussive guitar style — a syncopated, flamenco- and jazz-infused approach in which bass, harmony, and melodic lines emanate from the fretboard in one slap-happy storm. He was a backup singer for Julio and Enrique Iglesias, Shakira, and Ricky Martin before pursuing a solo career, and is known for his incredible improvisational mouth horn technique in which he creates a bebop "trumpet" solo entirely with his lips.

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN | ANN ARBOR

bluegrass and more

Tim O'Brien

Explorer

Born in 1954 in Wheeling, West Virginia, Tim O'Brien grew up with bluegrass, the folk revival, and rock and roll—and Lawrence Welk to boot. In the late 1970s he joined a bluegrass band called Hot Rize that landed right in between progressive and traditional music and became one of the top ensembles of the time. He forged a sort of alternative cowboy-band identity for Hot Rize called Red Knuckles and the Trailblazers, and ever since Hot Rize's breakup his solo career has been notable for its breadth of engagement with the roots of American music and for the ways he has made traditional music his own. O'Brien is hardly a household name, but he's an underrated musical explorer.

O'Brien's roughly twenty solo albums include an all-bluegrass Dylan tribute, a pair of releases delving into the Irish musical odyssey in America that go way beyond the stereotypical boxes into which that subject is usually put, old-time music performed by himself or with his sister Mollie O'Brien, electric folk-rock versions of traditional songs, and more. He penned a couple of country hits for Kathy Mattea—playing one once in Akron, he announced that it had paid for several large appliances—and even cracked the country Top Ten once in a duet with Mattea called "The Battle Hymn of Love." And there are few wittier practitioners of the novelty song around these days. His bluegrasser "Running Out of Memory" is about computers, not love gone wrong.

The latest Tim O'Brien album is a gem. It came out under the name O'Brien Party of 7, a family group that includes Mollie, her husband, and several members of the next generation. The album is called *Reincarnation: The Songs of Roger Miller*, and it offers a dozen songs by the "King of the Road" master who slid off from novelty into a gloriously weird kind of country improvisatory freedom. Each one gets a joyous group arrangement of its own. Tim O'Brien has as many different concert lineups as he does musical arrows in his quiver. I don't know how much of the Roger Miller material will be on the bill at his December 1 show at the Ark, but go and request "Hand for the Hog" for me.

Throw in O'Brien's ability to play almost anything with strings, and you truly have something special. He's a bluegrass treasure, one of those musicians who so often put forth great labors for little material reward. Not to be missed.

—James M. Manheim

storytelling and children's crafts (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea Depot), a **living Nativity** with live animals and a Christmas choir (6:30–7:30 p.m., First Methodist Church), **cookie decorating** (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea Teddy Bear Company), **storytelling** (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea Farmer's Supply), **Common Chords** handbell choir holiday concert (7–8:30 p.m., Chelsea District Library McKune Room), and more. *Dec. 1:* **Free breakfast with Santa** (8:30–10:30 a.m., Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center), **Gingerbread house decorating** for families (11 a.m.–noon & noon–1 p.m., First Methodist Church; space limited; preregistration required), **holiday parade** (6 p.m., Main St.), **after-parade party & community sing** led by the all-female vocal ensemble Counterpoint (7–9 p.m., Chelsea Teddy Bear Factory), the **"Great Bear Cub Run"** for kids (7 p.m., Chelsea Teddy Bear Factory), and more. *Dec. 2:* **Hometown Holiday Concert** (3 & 7 p.m., First Methodist Church) by the Chelsea Chamber Players, the First Methodist Mosaic Choir and church organist Kyle Webber, and 18–20 Chelsea High musicians. The program features Schubert's Mass in G, Rutter's Suite for Strings, and Elgar's *Sospiri*. Also, the **Holiday Festival of Lessons and Carols** (6:30 p.m., Chelsea Retirement Community Chapel) and more. *9 a.m.–10 p.m. (Nov. 30 & Dec. 1) & noon–7 p.m. (Dec. 2), downtown Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.*

Hanukkah Bazaar: Temple Beth Emeth. *Dec. 1 & 2.* Show and sale of menorahs, candles, dreidels, books, jewelry, music, art, gifts, and more. *9 a.m.–2 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 3–7:30 p.m. (Dec. 2), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665–4744.*

★Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Faire: Rudolf Steiner School. An artisan market, a toy room, storytelling and puppet theater, and activities, including jump rope making and candle dipping. Musical performances, raffle, and refreshments. Preceded on Nov. 30 by an adults-only **preview night** (5–8 p.m.) with live music by the popular local duo **Mustard's Retreat.** *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995–4141.*

29th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival: Ann Arbor City Club. Show and sale of photography, jewelry, nature crafts, woodworking, watercolors, soaps, textiles, chocolate, and more by more than 40 vendors. Also, a sale of holiday greens, including wreaths, roping, and poinsettias. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw. $3 admission. 662–3279.*

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. *Dec 1 & 2.* A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. Includes jewelry, carved wood & ceramic animals, creches, baskets, boxes, desk accessories, scarves, dolls, and silver and brass items. *9 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church (use back entrance), 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. 663–0362.*

★"How Has the Financial Collapse Hit Seniors in Crisis and Those Previously Secure, and What Can They Do?": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Panel discussion with Washtenaw County treasurer Catherine McClary, Packard Community Clinic founder Jerry Walden, U-M Housing Bureau for Seniors program coordinator Janet Hunko, and University Bank vice president for family and business financial solutions John Sickler. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. *9:45 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

★Saturday Morning SideTrack Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Sat.* 22-mile ride, at various paces along the Border-to-Border Trail, to the SideTrack Bar & Grill in Ypsilanti. *10 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 545–0541.*

2nd Annual Holiday Sale: Happy Fuzzy Yarn. Local fiber artist Riin Gill shows and sells her handspun yarn, hand-dyed yarn, hand-dyed fiber, and wearable art. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Happy Fuzzy Yarn & Riin Gill Design, 3076 Williamsburg (off Platt south of Packard). Free admission. 262–2958.*

3rd Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show: Ann Arbor Women Artists. AAWA members show and sell their works, including paintings, photographs, sculpture, glass art, jewelry, fiber art, baskets, purses, scarves, gloves, ornaments, greeting cards, and more. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Polo Fields–Washtenaw, 2955 Packard, Ypsilanti. Free admission. 834–2734.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 1 & 2.* With used puzzles and games, along with gift-quality books. Also, on Dec. 1 only, a **storytime** (9 a.m.) for kids ages 3–8, with a chance to meet the FAADL mascot Faddle, cookies, and a token for a free book from the Book Shop. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 1–4 p.m. (Dec. 2), AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 302–7774.*

All the Trimmings Holiday Art Show. An array of works by local artisans, including wood carvings, counted cross-stitch embroiderers, soap, folk paintings, pastels, tiles, jewelry, photography, rug hooking, bread boards, and more. Also, antiques & collectibles and fresh Christmas greens. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, W. Old US-12 at Manchester Rd., Chelsea. Free admission. 475–2159.*

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. *Dec. 1 & 2.* A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics and Christmas ornaments. Also, a kids area with gifts priced for their budgets. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Potters Guild Studio, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663–4970.*

★"Santa Visits Kerrytown": Kerrytown Market & Shops. *Dec. 1, 8, 15, & 22.* All kids invited to visit with Santa. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. 662–5008.*

"Christmas on the Farm and at Dewey School": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. *Dec. 1 & 2.* This German immigrant pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Also, the log house features 1840s décor. Singers perform traditional holiday songs, and a blacksmith works at the forge. This year's festival features a traditional Christmas program at the one-room Dewey School. Docent-guided tours of the 2-story brick farmhouse and of the school. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 1) & noon–4 p.m. (Dec. 2), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. from I-94 exit 153), Chelsea. $5 admission (kids ages 5–12, $2; age 4 & under, free). (517) 596–2254.*

★Christmas Party: Downtown Home & Garden. Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them a Christmas orange, and take their Christmas lists. Free roasted chestnuts, eggnog, cider, and, while they last, mouth-watering morsels of smoked Christmas turkey. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★"Music and Movement: Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. KinderMusik teacher Denise Owens presents a program for infants through 5-year-olds accompanied by an adult. *10–10:40 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Saturday Stories for All Ages": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Sat.* Family-oriented storytelling program and craft activities. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway. *Dec. 1, 15, & 29.* One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Awards for the top three finishers in each class. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m.–midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. $16 to race. (517) 960–5252.*

★Playgroup: Manzanitas Spanish Immersion Preschool. *Dec. 1 & 15.* Stories and songs geared toward kids ages 6 months–5 years, accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. *10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Manzanitas, 511 Miller. Free. (Park in the church lot off Chapin.) 369–6563.*

LUCILE B. CONGER
Holiday Gift Market
ALUMNAE GROUP
Tuesday, December 4th
9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Barton Hills Country Club
730 Country Club Road
$5 | Proceeds benefit women's scholarships at the University of Michigan
734.327.0981 or lc2626@hotmail.com

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december 2012 event highlights
Ann Arbor District Library

December 4 @ WCC

Tumbao Bravo

December 11

December 13 Film

Classical Bells

Becoming Santa

Joe Reilly

Events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Saturday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **1** — **NaNoWriMo TGIO Celebration • Lara Zielin**, author of three young adult books, shares tips on getting your novel published at a celebration event hosted by the local NaNo organizer
TRAVERWOOD BRANCH • GRADE 9 - ADULT

Sunday 12:30 - 2:30 pm or 3:00 - 5:00 pm — **2** — **Mosaic Jewelry Workshop** with artist **Shannon Kuchera** Take a look at her work at *mosaicgeek.com*! Please attend one session • **MALLETTS CREEK BRANCH • GRADE 6 - ADULT**

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **4** — **The Parents of Detroit Tigers' Pitcher Justin Verlander Discuss Their Book, *Rocks Across the Pond: Lessons Learned. Stories Told.* • Richard** and **Kathy Verlander** discuss raising their young athlete. Doors open at 6 PM
WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MORRIS LAWRENCE BUILDING

Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30 pm — **4** — **Block Print Workshop** • Design, cut, and print your own prints or greeting cards • **PITTSFIELD BRANCH • GRADE 6 - ADULT**

Thursday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **6** — **CONCERT • The Yellow Room Gang** • Enjoy an evening concert presented by the acclaimed group of local musicians

Saturday 2:00 - 4:00 pm — **8** — **You Wrote a Novel... Now What? Revising and Submitting Your Work** with **Dan Wickett**, co-founder and Exec. Director of Dzanc Books, and author, poet, and teacher **Jeff Kass**
TRAVERWOOD BRANCH • GRADE 9 - ADULT

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **9** — **Crafting with Copper Leaf** • Add a little sparkle to winter when you create a vase or candle holder with shimmery, geometric designs • **PITTSFIELD BRANCH • GRADE 6 - ADULT**

Sunday 2:00 - 3:00 pm — **9** — **CONCERT • Tumbao Bravo** • Enjoy the authentic rhythms of Cuba with the jazz harmonies of this award-winning band

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **11** — **LECTURE • Detroit Institute of Art's Fabergé Exhibit** DIA docent **Ken Szmigiel** takes viewers on a virtual tour of the current exhibition, ***Fabergé: The Rise and Fall***, from the collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **12** — **Adjusting To Your Child's Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Diagnosis** • Clinical psychologist **Fiona Miller, PhD**, discusses the challenges that parents report, how those challenges change over time, and strategies for coping with them

Thursday 7:00 - 8:45 pm — **13** — **2012 AWARD-WINNING FILM • *Indie Game: The Movie*** A profile of the indie game developers who sacrifice money, health and sanity to realize their lifelong dream

Saturday 1:00 - 2:00 pm — **15** — **CONCERT • Classical Bells** • The acclaimed handbell ensemble returns to AADL for a colorful holiday concert! • **ALL AGES**

Tuesday 7:00 - 8:45 pm — **18** — **AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY • *Becoming Santa*** • The true story of one ordinary man's quest to become the perfect Santa

Saturday 1:00 - 4:00 pm — **22** — **Double Dash Duo Derby Dinner** • Experience Double Dash the way it was meant to be, played on a GameCube, one screen per team—and with a pizza dinner! • **GRADE 6 - ADULT**

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **27** — **Rain Cloud Mobile Workshop** • Make a special mobile for a window or corner of your house • **GRADE 6 - ADULT**

Sunday 2:00 - 2:45 pm — **30** — **Joe Reilly Performs Environmental Songs for Kids** Joe's rhythmic melodies and creative lyrics about ecology get everyone moving! • **PRESCHOOL - GRADE 3**

For more information: 327.4200 or aadl.org

aadl.org

★"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department. *Dec. 1 & 8.* Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M scholars. *Dec. 1:* Astronomy research fellow Keren Sharon on **"Gravitational Lensing: Nature's Largest Telescopes."** *Dec. 8:* Physics research fellow Heidi Wu on **"Cosmic Rhapsody: From the Echo of the Big Bang to the Orchestration of the Universe."** *10:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 500 Church. Free. 764–4437.*

★"Cow Eye Dissection": U-M Natural History Museum. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Hands-on 20-minute family-oriented demo exploring how a cow's eye works and its similarities to and differences from human eyes. *11 a.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

"Wonderful and Unusual Gifts": Nature's Expressions. *Nov. 24 & 25 and Dec. 1 & 2.* Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free admission. 994–3048.*

"Annual Croissant Concert": Kerrytown Concert House. A popular holiday tradition featuring **Today's Brass Quintet,** an ensemble of area professional musicians that performs pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Members are French hornist Alan Taplin, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters Mitchell Wechsler and Jean Moorehead Libs. Croissants, coffee, & juice. *11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. *Every Sat.* Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids age 3 & up. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★Storytime: Nicola's Books. *Every Sat.* An experienced storyteller spins yarns for kids age 7 & under. *11 a.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA. U-M student docents read stories related to the art on display. Followed by an art activity. For kids ages 4–7 accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. *11:15 a.m., UMMA (meet at the information desk), 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium Shows. *Every Sat. & Sun. and Dec. 27 & 28.* Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. ***The Sky Tonight*** (11:30 a.m. Sat. & Dec. 27 & 28, 1:30 Sat. & Sun, & Dec. 27 & 28, & 3:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun.) is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Hubble Vision*** (12:30 p.m. Sat.) is an audiovisual show about the discoveries made by the Hubble Space Telescope. ***Season of Light*** (2:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. & Dec. 27 & 28) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $5. 764–0478.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Discs can be borrowed at park office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $7 per player; free for spectators. $5 vehicle entrance fee. 449–4300.*

Traditional Gingerbread Houses: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. *Dec. 1 & 9.* Demo by a Whole Foods staffer. Followed by a chance to make your own gingerbread house. Particularly geared toward kids, accompanied by a parent or grandparent. The same program is offered at the Cranbrook Whole Foods Market (990 W. Eisenhower) Dec. 8 & 15 at 2 p.m. (call 997–7500 to register). *Noon–2 p.m., Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw. $19.99 gingerbread house kit fee. Preregistration required. 975–4500.*

Christmas at the Mansion: Dexter Area Historical Society. *Dec. 1 & 2.* Guided tours of several rooms of Gordon Hall (the 19th-century mansion built by Dexter founder Judge Samuel Dexter) that have been lavishly decorated for the holidays, including many trees trimmed by various local groups. Also, Santa is on hand to talk with kids. Carolers, display of an antique sleigh. Hot chocolate & cookies. Gift shop. *Noon–6 p.m., 8347 Island Lake Rd. (off Dexter-Pinckney Rd. just west of downtown Dexter). $5 (kids, $1). 426–4961.*

"La Clemenza di Tito": Quality 16. Live broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of this Mozart opera, a drama of jealousy and intrigue set in imperial Rome. Stars Elina Garanca, Giuseppe Filianoti, and Barbara Frittoli. The broadcast is reprised on tape Dec. 19 & 20 (see listings). *12:55 p.m.–4:30 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets $23 (seniors, $20; kids age 12 & under & students, $13.50) in advance at gqti.com/met.aspx and at the door. 623–7469.*

★**German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History.** *Dec. 1, 2, 8, & 9.* This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical early 20th-century German American celebration of Christmas. Christmas cookies. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994–4898.*

"Professor Ray's Everyday Science": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 1, 2, 15, & 16.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *Dec. 1 & 2:* **"Air Apparent"** includes experiments with air pressure, from crushing a can to levitating objects. *Dec. 15 & 16:* **"Luminosity"** features experiments with light, such as making a dill pickle light up. *1 & 3 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $10 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**Washtenaw Community Concert Band: Barnes & Noble.** Performances by WCCB ensembles throughout the day. *1–8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Seating reservations available. 973–1618.*

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saline Area Players. *Nov. 29–Dec. 2.* Kara Williams and Elizabeth Champion direct local actors in Barbara Robinson's comedy about a family of hooligans who take over the Sunday school Christmas pageant. As the miscreants lie, steal, and smoke cigars, the pageant seems to face certain ruin—or does it? *1 & 3:30 p.m., Stone Arch Arts & Events, 117 S. Ann Arbor St., Saline. $5 (families, $25). salineareaplayers.com.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Florida. The U-M also has games this month against **WMU** (Dec. 15, 2 p.m.), **Valparaiso** (Dec. 20, 6 p.m.), and **Niagara** (Dec. 29, 2 p.m.). *2 p.m., Crisler Center. $7 & $8 (age 55 & older, $5; U-M students, faculty, & staff with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Natural History Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★**Dreamcatchers Craft: Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to make an Ojibway dreamcatcher from branches and other natural materials. *2–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**NaNoWriMo TGIO Celebration: Ann Arbor District Library.** Young adult novelist **Lara Zielin** offers tips on getting your novel published. In celebration of the end of National Novel Writing Month, a nonprofit promotion challenging teens and adults to write a 50,000-word novel in the month of November. Refreshments. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

"Strum & Drum": Oz's Music Environment. *Every Sat.* Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. on Dec. 1 only, a free **Kids Open Stage.** *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $15 per family. 662–8283.*

★**Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** *Dec. 1 & 15.* All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook,* Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection,* and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. *3–6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. Call to confirm. 994–9307.*

★**In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion of ***The Thing Around Your Neck,*** Chimamanda Nogozi Adichi's book of short stories about the tension between Nigerians and Nigerian Americans and what it means to be middle-class in each country. *4 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Young Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. With live music by the Stout Hearted String Band. Beginners welcome; no partner needed. Bring clean, flat, nonmarking shoes. For students and people in their 20s and 30s. *4–7 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $10 (members, $9; students, $5). (248) 417–7968.*

"Holiday Wishes": Voices in Harmony. Voices in Harmony, a local Sweet Adelines women's chorus, performs a festive *a cappella* harmony concert featuring a variety of holiday tunes. Also, performances by Voices in Harmony small ensembles and quartets, along with a sing-along. *2 & 6 p.m., UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 in advance at voicesinharmonychorus.org and at the door. 612–7580.*

International Folk Dancing: Ann Arbor Folk Dancers. Dancing to live music by the Ethnic Connection. *7–10 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $10 (students, $5) donation. 709–8748.*

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. *Dec. 1 & 2.* This company of more than 60 dancers ages 6–24 performs Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. *2 & 7 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 3 p.m. (Dec. 2), Ypsilanti High School Auditorium, 2095 Packard. Tickets $15–$20 in advance at ypsilantiareadancers.com and at the door. 428–0273.*

★**"Owl Prowl:" Winter Nature Programs: Waterloo Recreation Area.** WRA park interpreter Katie McGlashen leads a hike through the woods to call for owls and learn about their adaptations. *7 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. Free. $10 annual vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.*

A Cappella Concert: U-M Gimble. This coed *a cappella* ensemble performs songs by Ellie Goulding, Leona Lewis, Jack's Mannequin, Fun, and others. The theme of the show is "(g)harmony.com." Also, a performance by the U-M improv comedy troupe **Comco.** *7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium B. $8. gimble@umich.edu.*

★**"The Experience of Timelessness": U-M School of Music/UMMA.** Christopher James Lees conducts the **U-M Contemporary Directions Ensemble** in works from the last 40 years that challenge the expectation of linear, measured experience. The program is highlighted by works by U-M music professors Paul Schoenfield and Bright Sheng. *7 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0594.*

Fall Concert: U-M Dicks & Janes. This coed *a cappella* ensemble performs everything from "The Star-Spangled Banner" to Ingrid Michaelson's "You and I" to Jason Segel and Bret McKenzie's "Man or Muppet." *Time TBA, U-M location TBA. Cost TBA. dicksandjanes.com.*

★**"From Such Great Heights": U-M Basement Arts.** *Nov. 29–Dec. 1.* Elisabeth Frankel directs U-M student Tyler Dean's play about a god living in human form, trying to be a normal teenager. Complications ensue when he falls for an atheistic street performer. *7 p.m. (Nov. 29–Dec. 1) & 11 p.m. (Nov. 30), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. basement.studentorgs.umich.edu.*

"White as Snow, Red as Blood: The Story of Snow White": EMU Theatre Department. *Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2, & 6–9.* EMU drama professor Jenny Koppera directs EMU drama students in award-winning playwright (and EMU Theatre of the Young founder) Virginia Glasgow Koste's adaptation of the classic fairy tale. A family-oriented production for theatergoers age 6 & up. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun), EMU Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell at Jarvis), Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $12; kids 12 & under, $7) in advance and at the door. 487–1221.*

"Drum 4 Wellness Circle": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a drum circle. Bring a drum or use one provided. *7:30–9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $5 suggested donation. 480–1219.*

"Civic Open '12": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. Finalists in this vocal competition perform for the chance to win cash prizes and an opportunity to sing on the Lucy Ann Lance radio show. Local celebrity judges include Michigan Theater director Russ Collins, Arts Alliance director Deb Polich, Michigan Radio *Stateside* host Cynthia Canty, and Broadway composer Neil Bartram. *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), The Last Word, 301 W. Huron. Tickets $15 (priority seating, $25) in advance & at the door. 971–2228.*

35th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. *Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 & 2.* Elegantly elaborate medieval English pageant celebrating Christ's birth with a blend of religious pageantry and secular pomp. Emily Levikas and Brian Altevogt direct a large cast of Concordia students, faculty, and staff as Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. With musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year. *7:30 p.m. (Nov. 30 & Dec. 1) & 4 p.m. (Dec. 2), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $8–$15 in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office. 995–4612.*

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Martha Vander Kolk calls to music by Brad Battey & Friends. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10 (members, $9; students, $5). 769–1052.*

"Milonga Picante": U-M Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *Dec. 1 & 15.* Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *8 p.m.–midnight, Michigan League Vandenberg Room (Dec. 1) &*

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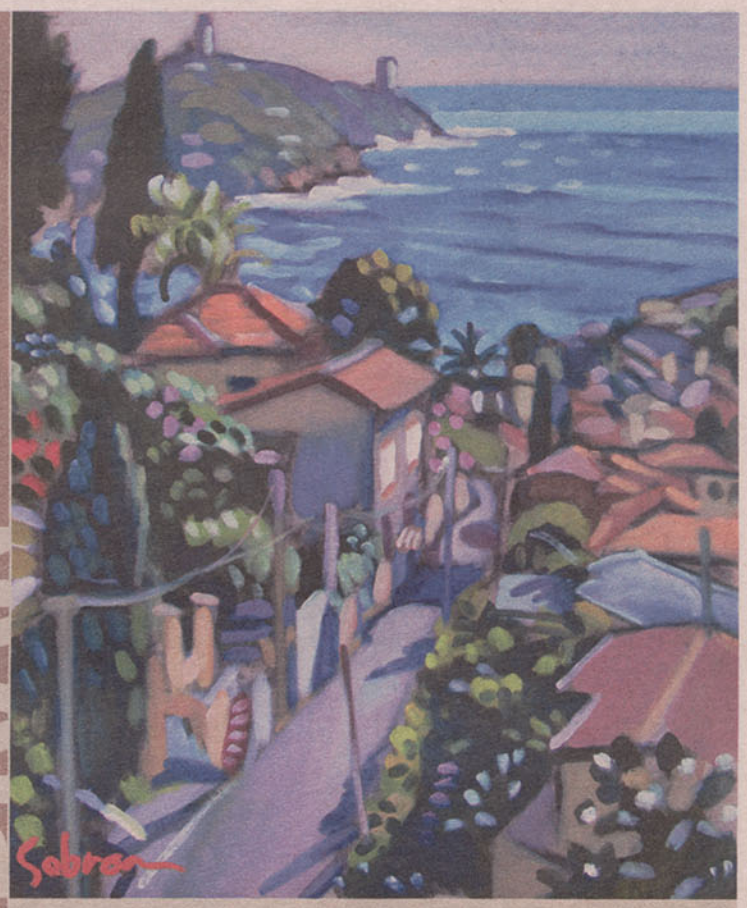

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New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. *Impressions: Selections from Stewart & Stewart, Printer/Publisher of Fine Prints, 1980 to Present* (Nov. 30–Jan. 6). Reception Nov. 30, 6–8 p.m. Gallery talk Dec. 1, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5:30 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown Branch (343 S. Fifth Ave.): *How a Book Is Made: The U-M Special Collections Library; Our Best Images: Photography by the Ann Arbor Camera Club; Wall Portraits by Judith Jacobs* (all exhibits run Dec. 4–Jan. 14). ***Malletts Creek Branch*** (3010 E. Eisenhower): *Nature Alphabets: Photographs by Laila Kujala* (Dec. 18–Jan. 29). Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun., noon–6 p.m. 327–4555.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. *Graduate Thesis Exhibition: Eric "The Iron Eagle" Simmons and Ran Mu* (Dec. 3–7). Graphic design by Simmons and meticulously rendered watercolors by Ran Mu. Reception Dec. 5, 4–7 p.m. *Graduate Thesis Exhibition: Sara Brandys* (Dec. 10–14). Graphic design works that explore the artist's autoimmune disorder and the ways it distorts her responses to everyday life. Reception Dec. 12, 4–7 p.m. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 487–1268.

GalleryDAAS, G648 U-M Haven Hall, 505 S. State. *All in the Family: Improvisational Architecture in the Work of Beverly Buchanan* (through Feb. 1). Dreamlike miniature models that explore Southern vernacular architecture. Mon., Wed., & Fri. (through Dec. 12) noon–4 p.m. The gallery is closed Dec. 12–Jan. 8. Winter semester hours TBA. 764–5513.

Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave. *Process as Content* (Nov. 23–Dec. 30). Works by 24 local, regional, and national artists whose work explores a wide range of processes for making art. Tues.–Sat. noon–9 p.m., Sun. noon–4 p.m. 997–7012.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals), Main Hospital: *Brain Fitness Puzzle Art: Interactive Installation by Alli Berman; Landscape Forms: Painting Retrospective by Karin L. Bodycombe; Inside & Out: Fragments & Narratives in Clay by Mari Ogihara* (all exhibits run Dec. 17–Feb. 4). ***Taubman Center:*** *Garden of Eden & Tree of Life: Snowflake Paper Cuttings by Thomas L. Clark; The Birthday Party: Ceramic Sculptures by Marcia Polenberg; Saline Area Schools K–12 Student Group Show* (all exhibits run Dec. 17–Feb. 4). ***Cancer Center:*** *Hidden Glimpses of Nature: Photography by Charles St. Charles III* (Dec. 17–Apr. 8) Daily 8 a.m.–8 p.m. (except Cancer Center, 8–5 p.m.) 936–ARTS.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *One Week on Lake Superior* (Dec. 5–Jan. 2). Photographs by Steven Coron and paintings by Karin Wagner Coron from their summer 2012 trip to the U.P. Reception Dec. 5, 5–7 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., by appointment, and during evening concerts. 769–2999.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *Washtenaw County Teen Arts Festival* (Nov. 30–Dec. 9). Artwork by local teens. Opening reception Nov. 30, 6–8 p.m. Closing reception and awards Dec. 9, 5 p.m. Thurs.–Sat. 3–8 p.m., Sun. 1:30–4 p.m. 480–2787.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *Francis Alÿs: Guards* (Dec. 15–Mar. 21). Photographs by Belgian artist Alÿs of 64 of the Queen of England's guards on a walk in London. Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 764–0395.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art & Design), 2000 Bonisteel. *A & D Student Exhibition* (Dec. 1–21). A juried exhibit of works in various media by undergrad art students. Reception Dec. 4, 4:30–5:30 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 936–2082.

U-M Work (U-M School of Art & Design), 306 S. State. *First Encounters* (Dec. 1–21). Objects from the workspaces of A&D faculty members. Tues.–Sun. noon–7 p.m. 998–6178.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *Holiday Show* (Nov. 27–Dec. 29). Works by members and invited artists. Reception Nov. 30, 7–9 p.m. Tues. & Wed. noon–6 p.m., Thurs.–Sat. noon–10 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

Michigan Union Pendleton Room (Dec. 15). $10 (members, $5). umich.edu/~umtango.

"134th Annual Handel's *Messiah*": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). *Dec. 1 & 2.* Jerry Blackstone directs the 175-voice Choral Union, harpsichordist **Edward Parmentier,** and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Julianna Di Giacomo,** mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Johnson Cano,** tenor **William Burden,** and bass **Morris Robinson.** The Choral Union *Messiah,* featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. *8 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 2), Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$36 in advance at ums.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. *Every Thurs.–Sat., Nov. 23–Dec. 23.* Barbara Cullen directs this local professional company in Stuart Ross's sequel to *Forever Plaid,* his deliciously goofy 1990 off-Broadway musical revue about a 1950s high school close-harmony vocal quartet, killed in a car crash on the way to their 1st big show, that's given a chance to perform the show that never was. In the sequel, the group is summoned back to Earth—with the assistance of a heavenly Rosemary Clooney—to bring a little harmony to a discordant world with a Christmas special. Sprinkled among the Christmas offerings are audience favorites like their riotous 3'11" version of "The Ed Sullivan Show"—this time featuring the Rockettes, the Chipmunks and The Vienna Boys Choir—and a "Plaid Caribbean Christmas" which puts the "Day-O" in In Excelsis. Cast: Sebastian Gerstner, Rusty Mewha, Kevin Rose, and Brian Thibault. *8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 7 p.m. (Thurs.), & 3 p.m. (Sat., Sun., & Dec. 20), Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets $28 (members & seniors, $25; groups of 10 or more, $22) in advance at theencoretheatre.org and at the door. 268–6200.*

Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department. *Nov. 30 & Dec. 1.* U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $5 at the door only. 763–5460.*

"Wolf Cry Wolf": New Theatre Project. *Every Fri.–Sun., Nov. 30–Dec. 16.* Keith Paul Medelis directs the premiere of young Midwestern playwright Kevin Kautzman's poetic, deliciously theatrical drama about Jane, a young woman who returns home to North Dakota for the first time in years and surprises Steph, her estranged childhood friend. As the 2 women descend into their memories, they relive the summer Jane told Steph her deepest secret—that she knows how to turn into a wolf. Cast: Meredith Deighton, Ramona Lucius, Kris Reilly. *8 p.m., Mix Performance Space, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. $15 (students & seniors, $10) in advance at thenewtheatreproject.org and at the door. 645–9776.*

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., through Dec. 15, and Dec. 11.* Guy Sanville directs Tracy Letts' 2008 comedic drama, set in a diverse Chicago neighborhood, about the unlikely friendship between a burned-out doughnut shop owner and his young, idealistic new employee. *New York Times* critic Charles Isherwood calls it "a gentle comedy that unfolds like an extended episode of a 1970s sitcom … a warm bath of a play that will leave … audiences with satisfied smiles rather than rattled nerves." Cast: longtime TV and film actor **Randolph Mantooth,** as well as area actors Ryan Carlson, David Daoust, Alex Leydenfrost, Brian Marable, Michelle Mountain, Michael Brian Ogden, Sandy Ryder, and Lynch Travis. *8 p.m. (Wed.–Sat.), 3 p.m. (Wed. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $27 (Wed. & Thurs.), $37 (Fri. eves. & weekend matinees), & $42 (Sat. eves.) in advance at purplerosetheatre.org, and by phone. 433–7673.*

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Nov. 15–Dec. 30.* Phil Simmons directs this sophisticated Tony Award–winning 1973 musical comedy, adapted from Ingmar Bergman's romantic film *Smiles of a Summer Night,* itself an adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* The story concerns 3 mismatched couples, each of whom finally ends up with the right partner as they discover their true desires during a weekend together in the country. Stephen Sondheim's memorable and enchanting waltz-filled score includes "Send In the Clowns," "A Weekend in the Country," "Later," and other favorites. Stars Naz Edwards, John Seibert, and Scott Crownover. The Dec. 9 performance is preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a **"Cultural Conversation"** ($10; reservations suggested) hosted by Performance Network artistic director Carla Milarch with the director, designers, and cast. *8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 3 p.m. (Dec. 1, 15, & 29), 2 p.m. (Sun.), & 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $27 & $29 (Thurs.), $32 & $34 (Fri. & Sun.), $25 & $27 (Sat. matinee), $39 & $41 (Sat. eve.). $3 discount for seniors age 60 & over. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. $10 student discount in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

★"Wisbom": U-M Musical Theatre Department. *Nov. 29–Dec. 2.* Mbala Nkanga directs fellow U-M theater professor Charles "OyamO" Gordon's drama, set in 1970, about a group of student radicals who tried to bomb the campus of the University of Wisconsin, succeeding on their 4th try. *8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), & 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–5350.*

Moody McCarthy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Nov. 29–Dec 1.* Veteran NYC observational humorist known for his playful take on everything from the allure of women with raspy voices to the joys of crossing time zones. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $8 (Thurs.) & $11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: Dance Revolution. *Dec. 1 & 15.* High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. The Dec. 1 dance features West Coast swing, with a swing lesson 7–9 p.m. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main (above Elmo's). $5. (313) 808–0358.*

2 SUNDAY

"Homegrown at the Cobblestone." *Dec. 2 & 16.* More than 25 local artists show and sell their hand-dyed silks, photography, jewelry, painting, textiles, bricolage, pottery, and more. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free admission. 276–4025.*

Gift-Fest 2012: Ann Arbor Artists Collective. 14th annual holiday show and sale of original works in jewelry, ceramics, glass, fiber, paper, basketry, painting, and more by local artists. Refreshments & a raffle of artist-made ornaments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free admission. 272–2901.*

★"Tibetan Buddhism": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Sun.* Talk by **Gelek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994–3387.*

★"The Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talk by MUUSJN co-chair Kate Warner. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 669–9187.*

★Mature Singles: First Presbyterian Church. *Every Sun.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. *Dec. 2:* Kalamazoo College religion professor Waldemar Schmeichel discusses the message of redemption in the text of **Handel's *Messiah*.** Dec. *9:* Schmeichel discusses **"The Theology of Christian Hymns,"** including a handful of carols. *Dec. 16:* Schmeichel discusses the depiction of the transformative power of Christmas in Dickens' ***A Christmas Carol.*** *Dec. 23:* All invited to a **festive Christmas potluck.** Bring a dish to pass. *Dec. 30:* All invited for **conversation.** *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★H.A.C. Ultimate. *Every Sun.* All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Mitch-*

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ell Field, Fuller Rd. Free. hac_ultimate@ameritech.net, 846–9418.

★"Mosaic Jewelry": Ann Arbor District Library. Mosaicgeek.com creator Shannon Kuchera shows adults and teens in grade 6 & up how to make delicate mosaics to wear as jewelry. Supplies provided. *12:30–2:30 p.m. & 3–5 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★Ann Arbor Go Club. *Every Sun. & Thurs.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *1–6 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

★"Art as Experience": UMMA. *Dec. 2, 9, & 16.* Docent-led tour, with audience participation, of highlights of UMMA collections. *1 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763–UMMA.*

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun. & Tues.–Fri., except Dec. 25.* All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using standard constructed (Sun. & Thurs.), Elder Dragon Highlander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), and booster draft (Fri.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Fri.). *1 p.m. (Sun.) & 6 p.m. (Tues.–Fri.), Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. $5 (Tues., free; Fri., $15 includes cards). 786–3746.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., Phoenix Center, 200 S. Main (above Elmo's). $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★JCC Early Childhood Center Bookfair: Barnes & Noble. A family-oriented program of stories and crafts exploring the Jewish religion and holiday celebrations. *1 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Seating reservations available. 973–1618.*

★"Comic Artists Forum": Ann Arbor District Library. Manga artist **Kasey Van Hise,** creator of the webcomic *Winters in Lavelle,* offers tips (via Skype) on storytelling in manga. Participants also work on their own comics; materials provided, but you are welcome to bring your own artwork. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *1–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Billy Jonas: The Ark. Family concert by this self-styled "junkadelic folk" singer-songwriter from Asheville, NC, whose songs set witty, verbally playful lyrics to a blend of African, hip-hop, and juke-joint vocal rhythms. He accompanies himself on guitar and a variety of found objects, including pots, pans, and a pogo stick. *1 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com), and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saline Area Players. See 1 Saturday. 1 & 3:30 p.m.

★"Michigan at War: The Struggle for the Old Northwest, 1812–1815": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. Talk by Michigan Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 secretary James McConnell. Also, club members discuss their experiences researching War of 1812 ancestors. *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

★"Rangoli Fun": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–3 invited to try this popular art form from India that involves making geometric designs on the floor and filling them with rice in different colors. Materials provided. *2–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★Monte Nagler: Barnes & Noble. This veteran Detroit-area photographer discusses his new coffee table book, ***Quartets: Photographs in Visual Harmony.*** Signing. *2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★"Sedge Meadow Visit Near the River": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. A hike to this wetland on the banks of the Huron River. Wear shoes or boots that can get muddy. *2–4 p.m., Osborne Mill Preserve, E. Delhi Rd., Scio Twp. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★"Kerry Tales: Dance a Jig with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops. 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769–3115.*

★"African Art and the Shape of Time": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit, which seeks to complicate Western analytical frameworks that have traditionally understood African artworks as expressions of timeless myths and rituals. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

Square Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Marlin Whitaker calls to live music by the Stout Hearted String Band. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Wear clean, nonmarking shoes. *2–5 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $8 (students, $5; kids age 14 & under with a parent, free; $1 discount for members). 994–6494.*

Ann Arbor TubaChristmas. All invited to bring an instrument and a music stand (with clothespins) to join around 40 players in this annual outdoor performance of holiday carols on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of many outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of TubaChristmas founder Harvey Phillips. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium (1226 Murfin, North Campus) begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available ($15). Bring a lunch. Hats, gloves, and sunglasses recommended. *2–3 p.m., Farmers Market. $7. Free to spectators. 395–9544.*

★Los Angeles Piano Quartet: U-M School of Music. This quartet of U-M violin professor **Yehonatan Berick,** violist **Katherine Murdock,** cellist **Steven Doane,** and pianist **Xak Bjerken** performs Mozart's Piano Quartet in E-flat major, Jalbert's *Secret Alchemy,* and Brahms' Piano Quartet in A major. *2 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Holiday Hometown Concert: Fiddlers ReStrung. This local touring teen fiddle ensemble plays traditional American fiddle songs, bluegrass, and high-energy American folk. Attendees are asked to bring a new toy for donation to the Toys for Tots program. *2 p.m., Saline High School Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $5) in advance and at the door. 663–8923.*

"134th Annual Handel's *Messiah*": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"White as Snow, Red as Blood: The Story of Snow White": EMU Theatre Department. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★"Wisbom": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★Pokemon League: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun.* All invited to play this popular card game and trade cards with other players. *3 p.m., Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. Free. 786–3746.*

Dan Savage: Michigan Theater Foundation. This renowned journalist and cultural critic, author of the syndicated sex advice column *Savage Love,* host of MTV's *Savage U,* and cofounder with his husband Terry Miller of the It Gets Better Project to prevent suicide among LGBT youth, discusses his work and life experiences in the context of contemporary cultural issues. Q&A. *3 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $32.50–$37.50 (students, $15) in advance at all Ticketmaster outlets and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745–3000.*

"The Nutcracker": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

Sunday Matinee Puppet Show: Dreamland Theater. *Every Sun.* The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents all-ages puppet shows by local writers featuring a variety of puppets created by local artists, including marionettes and shadow puppets. The stories often contain humorously intended social commentary that, like contemporary children's cartoons, some may consider inappropriate. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5 (kids age 3 & under, free). 657–2337.*

"Home for the Holidays": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. This volunteer community orchestra directed by Adam Riccinto performs music from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and other holiday symphonic favorites, and it is joined by the **Erickson Elementary School choir,** conducted by Crystal Harding, for a set of seasonal songs. *3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $12 (seniors & kids under age 12, $6; family of up to 2 adults & 2 kids under age 12, $30) in advance at ypsilantisymphony.org and at the door. 507–1451.*

★Christmas Carol Sing: Kempf House. All invited to sing carols around the Kempf House's 1877 Steinway grand piano. German holiday treats served. *4–5 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations appreciated. 994–4898.*

The Art Forger

Mystery on canvas

LYNN WAYNE

Inspired by the 1990 robbery at the Gardner Museum in Boston that claimed three of Degas' drawings, still at large, B.A. Shapiro's new novel *The Art Forger* plunges into the seedy underworld of high art. The story follows Claire Roth, an idealistic post-grad artist who's making her rent by mimicking masterworks for reproductions.com. She's good. Very good. So why has she been banished from the legitimate art scene?

As a self-proclaimed artless being, I was worried I'd be lost among the brushstrokes, shadows, and turpentine. But Shapiro is an expert docent, silently dismissing any ignorance I thought I had towards the arty world.

Fans of mainstream glossy suspense novels may be disappointed by Shapiro's relaxed pace—she doesn't lead with the threat of violence or imminent destruction. But the novel unfolds like a mystery, keeping the reader in suspense about Claire's past and those stolen Degas drawings. Claire is desperate to regain her reputation as a real artist and show off her gorgeous new paintings, which Shapiro describes so deftly that I both wish I could see the real thing and feel like I already have. When powerful gallery owner Aiden Markel offers her $17,000 and her first one-woman show in his gallery, she'll do anything for the opportunity—even reproduce her beloved Degas that was stolen all those years ago in the heist.

Blinded by her big break, Claire nods an acceptance and Aiden unveils the stolen painting in her cramped studio. She will work beside it, mirroring it, forging it. But there is something slightly off about this masterpiece and an edge in Aiden's voice. Why her? Have the trapdoors opened, or does she choose to believe him? The suspense builds as Claire's pushed into a shadowy half-world where she is left wide-eyed with only a paintbrush to defend herself.

Claire's world runs parallel with that of Isabella Stewart Gardner, a strong but bored woman with too much of her husband's money to burn. We are introduced to Isabella in 1886, penning letters from Paris to her beloved niece Amelia. Isabella supplements her passionless marriage with her vast collection of fine art. But like Claire, Aunt Belle is forced to choose between her morals and her desire for art. Both women inhabit a labyrinth of sex, ego, and obsession that leaves the reader wanting more. You'll want to pick up a paintbrush or rob a gallery by the end of it.

Shapiro reads at Nicola's Books on December 4.

—Courtney Miller

Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. The AAYC descant and concert choirs of talented young local singers perform works TBA. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $5) at the door only. 996–4404.*

35th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 1 Saturday. 4 p.m.

"16th Annual Evening of Dinner & Jazz": African American Cultural & Historical Museum Fundraiser. Buffet dinner with live jazz by **Ron Brooks & Friends,** an ensemble led by veteran local bassist (and former Bird of Paradise owner) Brooks and featuring **Betty Joplin,** a silky-voiced jazz singer from Lansing with a vocal style somewhere between Aretha Franklin and Natalie Cole and a repertoire that blends Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson. Cash bar. *5–8 p.m., Polo Fields Golf and Country Club, 2955 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets $50 in advance by phone or email. aachmuseum@gmail.com, 971–7819.*

Boom Tic Boom: Kerrytown Concert House. Led by the energetic, up-and-coming NYC-based drummer **Allison Miller,** this avant-garde jazz ensemble performs original songs from its self-titled album, one of the "Top 10 Jazz Albums of 2010" according to the *Los Angeles Times*. "[Miller] makes every attempt to bring out the percussiveness of her instrument with clicks, cymbal hisses and scrapes, allusions to reverb, and brush and cymbal work so fluid that it resembles water misting or swooshing across a fine sandpaper surface," writes an *All About Jazz* reviewer. With pianist **Myra Melford,** violinist **Jenny Scheinman,** and bassist **Todd Sickafoose.** *7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

Fireside Festival of New Works: Performance Network. *Dec. 2–5 (different programs).* A different new play by a local playwright each night. Tonight: ***Miracles in the Fall,*** Chuck O'Connor's drama, set in 1968 Detroit, about a Dominican sister whose desire for holiness is challenged by the indignity of her increasingly infirm father, the confidence of a maverick priest's intimacy, and the self-crippling family secret revealed with the untimely return of her prodigal brother. *7 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets: whatever you can afford to pay. 663–0681.*

★"Advent Antiphons": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Deborah Friauff directs the church's adult choir in contemporary American liturgical composer Peter Hallock's setting of the Advent chants known as the "O" Antiphons because each features a traditional text beginning with the word "O," the best known of which is "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." *7:15 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. *Dec. 2, 9, & 16.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including foxtrots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $5. 763–6984.*

★Campus Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music. U-M music grad student David Sayers directs this ensemble of nonmusic majors in a program TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Wolf Cry Wolf": New Theatre Project. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

3 MONDAY

★"Shale Gas and Hydraulic Fracking: Issues for State Governance": U-M Ford School of Public Policy. Panel discussion with Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion director Christopher Borick, National Conference of State Legislatures energy policy associate Jacquelyn Pless, and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* energy reporter Erich Schwartzel. *10–11:30 a.m., 1120 Weill, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–5312.*

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★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** *Every Mon. through Dec. 10.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free to visitors ($100 per semester dues for those who join). 665–9271.*

★**"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Mon. except Dec. 24.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Play days are also offered at the Malletts Creek (Tues., except Dec. 25, 10–11 a.m. & Thurs. 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Wed. 11 a.m.–noon), and Traverwood (Fri. 10:30–11 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★**Knitting: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Mon.* All ages invited to bring knitting projects to work on. *11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs.* All ages invited to play non-sanctioned (Mon.) and ACBL-sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs.) duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. *12:30–4 p.m. (Mon.) & Noon–3:45 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $7 (members, $6) on Wed. & Thurs., $3 (members, $2) on Mon. 794–6250.*

★**Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Mon.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available for $5.50 (age 60 & over, $3). 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.; reservations required. *12:30–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon & Thurs.* All ages invited to play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Lunch available (except Dec. 24 & 31) at 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. ($5.50; age 60 & over, $3; reservations required). *1–3:30 p.m. (Mon.) & 10–11:30 a.m. (Thurs.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★**Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** *Every Mon. & Fri. through Dec. 21.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** *Every Mon. except Dec. 24 & 31.* All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. *1–3 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Song of Achilles": Nicola's Books.** Best-selling writer **Madeline Miller** discusses her 2012 Orange Prize–winning novel, set during the Trojan War, that follows Patroclus, an awkward young prince, who joins Achilles in war, little knowing that the coming years will test everything they've learned and hold dear. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Fireside Festival of New Works: Performance Network. See 2 Sunday. Tonight: ***Merit,*** Lenelle Moise's 2-act comic drama about race, isolation, academia, and sex that won Southern Rep's 2012 Ruby Prize for a new play by a woman of color. It's the story of the relationship between a precocious and passionate fiction writer, the only student of color (and Southerner) in her prestigious graduate program, and her distinguished professor, a demanding divorcee with fatigued sex appeal. 7 p.m.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* Jigs, reels, and strathspeys. Usually with live music. All dances taught; dances this month are particularly beginner-friendly. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $5. 395–7782, 769–1052, 426–0241.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($35 annual dues for those who join). 274–9463.*

Band of Horses: Live Nation. Veteran country-tinged indie rock quintet, fronted by singer-songwriter Ben Bridwell, whose songs are known for their seductive melodies, resonant harmonies, and sinewy rhythms. The band has an acclaimed new CD, *Mirage Rock. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $39.50 in advance at Ticketmaster outlets and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000.*

Jazz Faculty Benefit Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Performance by AASPA jazz teachers and guest musicians, including trumpeter **Ingrid Racine** and vibes player **Cary Kocher.** *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$30 (students, $5). 213–2000.*

★**Symphony Band: U-M School of Music.** Michael Haithcock and U-M music grad student Jonathan Caldwell conduct this music student ensemble in Dooley's *Point Blank,* Schwantner's *... and the*

mountains rising nowhere, Higdon's *Road Stories,* Dvorak's Serenade in D minor, Schoenberg's *Theme and Variations,* and Ponchielli's *Variations on the Carnival of Venice. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon. except Dec. 24.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

4 TUESDAY

Annual Holiday Gift Market: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. Sale of works by area artisans. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. $5 admission. 327–0981.*

Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* All ages invited to play noncompetitive bridge. No partner required. *9:30–11:30 a.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. *Every Tues. (when Ann Arbor Public Schools are in session) through Apr. 30.* All women invited to study the Bible with other American and international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories and fun activities for preschoolers, and child care provided for babies. *9:45–11:15 a.m. & 1:15–2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. $15 for the year. 665–0105.*

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Tues. & Wed. except Dec. 25.* Stories and songs for kids ages 2–5 (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered at the Traverwood (Tues., except Dec. 25, 11–11:30 a.m., Wed. 6–6:30 p.m., & Thurs. 10–10:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (Wed. 10–10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs. 7–7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11–11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar, and at 1 p.m. **mah-jongg** and **sewing.** Also, at 1:30 p.m., **Yiddish Tish,** a Yiddish conversation group. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971–0990.*

★"Place and Ritual in Early Imperial China: A Comparative Perspective": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Noon Lecture Series. Talk by St. Louis University history professor Filippo Marsili. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* All ages invited to play this popular word game. Lunch available for $5.50 (age 60 & over, $3). 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.; reservations required. *1 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★"Patronage, Politics, and Sectarianism in the Middle East: The Case of Lebanon": U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. Talk by Brown University Middle East Studies director Melani Cammett. *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★"Block Printing": Ann Arbor District Library. Adults and youth in grade 6 & up invited to learn to make linocut prints using linoleum blocks. Supplies provided. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

Cooking Demos: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. *Dec. 4 & 7.* Whole Foods staffers give demonstrations on **"Holiday Baking with Superfoods"** (Dec. 4) and **"Health Starts Here Holiday Treats"** (Dec. 7). *7 p.m. (Dec. 4) & 6 p.m. (Dec. 7), Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw. Free (Dec. 7) & $10 (Dec. 4). Preregistration required. 975–4500.*

★Treetown Community Chorus. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7–9 p.m., Gladwin Barn, 4105 W. Liberty. Free to visitors ($80 per semester dues for those who join). 355–7738.*

★Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 70-member *a cappella* barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($26 monthly dues for those who join). 612–7580.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 7 p.m. *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). $7 (students, $4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665–7704.*

★"Rocks Across the Pond: Lessons Learned, Stories Told": Ann Arbor District Library. Richard and Kathy Verlander discuss their memoir about raising their 2 sons, Detroit Tiger star Justin and his younger brother Ben. Signing. *7–8:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 327–4555.*

★"The Art Forger": Nicola's Books. *See review, p. 59.* Boston novelist **Barbara Shapiro** discusses her new novel, set in the insular world of art, museums, and art dealers. It concerns a struggling young artist who's asked to reproduce one of the paintings stolen in the infamous 1990 Gardner heist in which 13 works of art, today worth more than $500 million, were stolen from a Boston museum. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Fireside Festival of New Works: Performance Network. See 2 Sunday. Tonight: ***County Line,*** David Wells' comic drama, set in rural Kansas, about a young woman, abandoned by her mother, who at age 17, when her lovable but irresponsible father is sent to state prison, is sent to a foster parent who runs a truck stop. 7 p.m.

★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance: Greg Humbel, 445–1925.*

★Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion (continued from November), in Spanish, of *Doña Flor y Sus Dos Maridos,* Jorge Amado's novel about a young Brazilian widow whose second marriage features visits from the first husband. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Ann Arbor Camera Club. Club members show their recent slides and prints, including those on the club's current topic, **"Sacred Places."** *7:30 p.m., Wines Elementary School Auditorium, 1701 Newport. Free to visitors ($25 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

★"The Mystery of the Winter Solstice and the Mysteries of Christmas": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Talk by Christian Community priest Robert A. Patterson. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 276–5294.*

★German Speakers Round Table. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394.*

★Baroque Chamber Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Edward Parmentier and Aaron Berofsky conduct this music student ensemble in works by Corelli, Biber, and others. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★"Mad about Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M music professor Christopher Harding directs U-M music students in an informal concert of classical music TBA. Proceeds benefit a local charity. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free; donations accepted. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Lab Ensemble: U-M School of Music. These music student ensembles are joined by guest alumni soloists Tyler Duncan, David Luther, and Jeremy Kittle in a program of works by faculty members and U-M alumni. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. WMU. The U-M also has games this month against **Arkansas** (Dec. 8, noon), **Binghamton** (Dec. 11, 7 p.m.), **EMU** (Dec. 20, 8:30 p.m.), and **CMU** (Dec. 29, 7 p.m.). *8:30 p.m., Crisler Center. $5–$22. 764–0247.*

5 WEDNESDAY

"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers. *Dec. 5–9.* Live broadcasts by Ann Arbor's 107one DJs. Nonperishable food donations requested. *7 a.m.–7 p.m. (Dec. 5–8) & 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 9), Kroger, 400 S. Maple, south end of Westgate shopping center. Free admission. 761–2796.*

"Breathing Easy: Latest Therapies for Pulmonary Problems": U-M Turner Senior Resource Center. Talk by U-M internal medicine professor Urvashi Bhan. *10–11:30 a.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. $5. 998–9353.*

Toledo Museum of Art
toledomuseum.org
MADE IN HOLLYWOOD
Photographs from the John Kobal Foundation
October 7, 2012 January 20, 2013
Supported in part by
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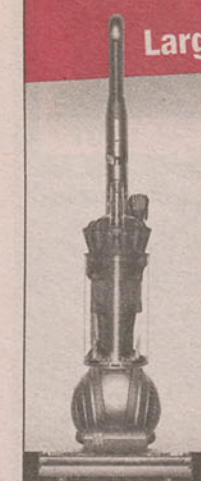

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FALL LEAF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

www.a2gov.org/leaves

① Feed your lawn with leaves by using a mulching mower!

You don't have to rake and bag leaves this fall—use a mulching mower instead. Faculty at the Turf Research Institute at Michigan State University successfully tested using mowers to mulch over 18" of dry leaves into the turf with healthy results for the lawn year after year. Consult the web at www.a2gov.org/leaves for leaf mulching reports and videos from Scotts Lawn Care, MSU and others. Mulching leaves is a great option for properties with lots of trees and is commonly used by many golf course operators.

② Use the city's weekly Compostable pickup service from April through mid-December (Dec. 9, 2012). Use bags or a compost cart for weekly compostable pickups.

Place leaves in large paper bags or use optional compost carts to set at the curb before 7 a.m. on the neighborhood weekly solid waste collection day. Compost carts may be purchased for a one-time charge of $50 each for any size (32-, 64-, or 96-gallon cart) from the city's Customer Service & Payment Center, located in Larcom City Hall, 310 E. Huron, open weekdays 8-5, 734.994.2807. Cart information is posted online at www.a2gov.org/carts.

③ Compost at home.

An easy outdoor composting recipe is provided at www.a2gov.org/compost.

④ Fall leaf drop-off options for City of Ann Arbor Properties:

- **Free unlimited leaf drop off between September 1 to December 30, 2012 at the Ann Arbor Compost Center, 4150 Platt Road, open Mon-Fri, 8-4 p.m. 734.794.6380** from city residents, Ann Arbor commercial properties, and/or their contracted landscapers/haulers. To deliver leaves, please follow site signs and drive across the city's recycling plant (MRF) scale. Stop at the scalehouse window to show proof of Ann Arbor residency (driver's license and current water bill). Haulers follow a slightly different process, described online at www.a2gov.org/leaves. The free drop-off is for Ann Arbor leaves, only. Other types of yard wastes—or leaves from non-Ann Arbor locations—are charged $12/cubic yard.
- **Free leaf and other compostables drop-off, year-round, of up to one cubic yard (or 6 yard waste bags) at Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station (DOS), 2950 E. Ellsworth, 734.971.7400, open Tues. and Thurs. 8:30-6:30 and Sat, 9-6** from Ann Arbor residents. To be eligible for the free yard waste drop-off and to waive the $3 DOS entry fee, Ann Arbor residents must show proof of residency with a driver's license and a current water bill at the gatehouse window.

Frequently-Asked Questions

Why don't we store bulk leaves in the streets?

In 2010 the City of Ann Arbor transitioned away from providing two bulk street leaf pickup days per neighborhood to expanding the weekly curbside compost pickups to accommodate unlimited bagged leaves through mid-December. The benefits include:

- Providing weekly curbside leaf pickups instead of relying on two seasonal street collections.
- Avoiding problems with vehicles parking over leaves on the pickup day, impeding truck collection access, and resulting in complaints from neighborhoods with street leaves left behind for a season.
- Preventing leaves from clogging storm drains, which leads to neighborhood flooding and results in pollutants entering the Huron River, which is the primary source of the city's drinking water.
- Increasing safety for bicyclists along marked bike lanes and other streets.
- Responding to seasonal weather variations. If warm, dry weather delays the leaf-drop or early snowfall reduces the opportunity for street collection at the end of the season, every resident gets the same weekly access to leaf pickup each year.

What are other alternatives to raking leaves to put into bags or compost carts for weekly pickup?

To eliminate raking, some people mow over leaves with the bag attached and then empty the bag into paper yard waste bags or compost carts. Some leaf blowers can be reversed to be able to vacuum and chop leaves. The partially-shredded leaves can also be used as mulch around garden and landscape areas. Home composting and mulching leaves directly into the lawn are other options.

I want my lawn care service to haul away my leaves. May we rake the leaves into the street and store for a week or so until the service picks them up?

No. If you decide to use a hauling service, you may store the leaves on your extension but not in the street.

What about naturally-falling leaves in the street? Do I have to pick up every leaf?

No. The city's street sweeping machines can handle normal amounts of leaf-fall under street trees but cannot sweep up piles of leaves.

I am not required to use a compost cart for my leaves, correct?

Correct! Paper yard waste bags may be used for leaves and other yard debris. The optional Compost Carts provide convenience in being able to roll around the yard while working. Those who choose to purchase and use a city-approved compost cart may also include more types of materials for composting—grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps, and uncoated paper plates, cups, and napkins for municipal collection and processing. Paper yard waste bags are not appropriate for holding these additional heavy, wet materials that easily leak and break through paper bags at the curb and can attract unwanted wildlife. Just a reminder, plastic bags are not accepted for leaves and yard waste because the contents easily go anaerobic and smell sour, and create lots of compost site operation problems. Plastic bags, however, continue to be acceptable for holding refuse in trash carts.

www.a2gov.org/leaves

★**"Claiming Ancestral Homelands: Mongolian Kazakh Migration in Inner Asia": U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies.** Talk by U-M anthropology grad student Anna Genina. Bring a bag lunch, if you like. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★**U-M School of Music Brown Bag Recital Series.** All invited to join a **holiday sing-along.** Bring a bag lunch, if you wish. *12:15 p.m., U-M School of Public Health Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** *Every Wed.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Careers in Improvised Music": U-M School of Music.** Panel discussion with U-M alumni. *4 p.m., U-M Stearns Bldg. Cady Room, 2005 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Ediciones Vigía: U-M Hatcher Graduate Library.** Presentation and book exhibit by Rolando Estévez, the principal designer for and founder of this Cuban handmade book company. *4–6 p.m., 100 Hatcher Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764–3166.*

Cooking Demos: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. *Dec. 5, 11, & 13.* Whole Foods staffers (except as noted) give demonstrations on **"Health-Promoting Strategies for the Holiday Season"** (Dec. 5, 5 p.m.), **"Vegan Finger Foods and Vegan Desserts"** with VegMichigan representatives (Dec. 11, 7 p.m.), and **"Seafood Appetizers and Platters for the Holidays"** (Dec. 13, 6 p.m.). *Various times, Whole Foods, 990 W. Eisenhower, Cranbrook Village shopping center. $5 (except Dec. 13, free). Preregistration required. 997–7500.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers.** *Every Wed.* All invited to play this popular word game. Bring a set if you have one. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing Co., 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** *Dec. 5 & 7.* Joshua Major directs U-M opera undergrads in scenes from different operas. *5:30 p.m., U-M School of Music McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–2538.*

★**Flute Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone directs the music student flute choir and small ensembles in a program TBA. *6 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline west of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) $6 per person. 623–8050.*

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who offers a talk on a variety of spiritual practices, with a focus this month on Christmas stories. Also, socializing. *7–9:30 p.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, Suite 2 (entry on Glenwood). Free, but donations are accepted. 477–5848.*

★**Nancy Shaw: Nicola's Books.** This popular local children's writer discusses ***Elena's Story,*** her vibrantly colored tale set in Guatemala. She also discusses her contribution to ***My Bookstore,*** a tribute to brick-and-mortar bookstores by 84 writers. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"Christmas Concert": Gabriel Richard High School.** Performances by the school choir, the madrigals choir, the concert orchestra, and the music liturgy band. *7 p.m., GRHS, 4333 Whitehall Dr. (north off Plymouth just east of US-23). Free. 662–0496.*

The Yellow Room Gang: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. See 6 Thursday AADL listing. Performance by this singer-songwriter collective, whose members also talk about how they wrote their songs. *Note:* Matt Watroba is not performing with the group tonight. *7–9 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 12 Jackson, Chelsea. $15 suggested donation. Info: call Annie Capps at 330–5226.*

Bolcom and Morris: King's Keyboard House. Ann Arbor's own nationally renowned husband-and-wife duo of pianist (and Pulitzer Prize–winning composer) Bill Bolcom and mezzo-soprano Joan Morris are celebrated exponents of early American popular song, which they perform with the sparkle and enthusiasm of true aficionados. Tonight's program **"Mostly Unusual Songs: Cabaret, Christmas, and Classic"** features music by Jacques Prevert & Joseph Kosma, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, and Rogers & Hart. *7 p.m., King's, 2363 E. Stadium. $20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 663–3381.*

films

Note: Most educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Ann Arbor District Library. FREE. 327–4555. AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave., 7 p.m.

Dec. 13: **"Indie Game: The Movie"** (James Swirsky & Lisanne Pajot, 2012). Award-winning documentary about the struggles of 4 independent game developers.

Dec. 18: **"Becoming Santa"** (Jeff Myers, 2011). Hilarious award-winning documentary about an ordinary middle-aged man's quest to become the perfect Santa Claus.

Ann Arbor Docu Fest. Screening of different documentary films, with a special family feature film on Dec. 2. FREE. 929–9979. Event Theater (lower level of Elmo's T-Shirts), 220 S. Main, 7 p.m. (except Dec. 2)

Dec. 2: **"It Happened on Fifth Avenue"** (Roy Del Ruth, 1947). Comedy about a mysterious hobo who takes over a vacated mansion in New York and entertains and unexpectedly enriches the lives of his guests. Don DeFore, Ann Harding, Charlie Ruggles, Victor Moore. 2 p.m.

Dec. 5: **"Genetic Roulette: The Gamble of Our Lives"** (Jeffrey M. Smith, 2012). Documentary expose of the dangers of genetically modified foods.

Dec. 12: **"Imagine: John Lennon"** (Andrew Solt, 1988). Documentary biography drawing on nearly 240 hours of archival footage.

Dec. 19: **"The Greenest Building"** (Jane Turville, 2011). Documentary exploring whether demolition of energy-inefficient buildings to replace them with green structures in the name of sustainability makes the best sense.

Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. $5 suggested donation. 327–0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

Dec. 15: **"Spiritual Cinema."** Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

Dec. 21: **"Of Gods and Men"** (Xavier Beauvois, 2010). Trappist monks in Algeria must decide whether to leave or stay when they're threatened by terrorists. French & Arabic, subtitles. Followed by discussion.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually 3 times, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8; MTF members, $7.50; Wed., $7). Michigan Theater, times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Opens Nov. 30: **"Anna Karenina"** (Joe Wright, 2012). Sweeping adaptation of Tolstoy's epic novel. Keira Knightley, Jude Law. *Dec. 1:* **"Meet Me in St. Louis"** (Vincente Minnelli, 1944). Charming musical about a family's experience at the 1903 World's Fair. Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Mary Astor. Free. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 1: **"Flow State"** (Warren Miller, 2012). Recognized as the world's premier ski filmmaker, Miller has been making family-oriented ski adventure films for 60 years. He's a major star on the West Coast, where his films draw packed houses for weeklong runs, and the annual Michigan Theater showing usually draws 800 to 1,000 viewers. Tickets $15 (kids age 12 & under, $12) in advance at all Ticketmaster outlets and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745–3000. 6 p.m.

Dec. 2: **"How to Survive a Plague"** (David France, 2012). Documentary about 2 AIDS activism organizations.

Dec. 5: **"Men in White"** (Ryszard Boleslawski, 1934). A dedicated young physician drifts into an affair with his equally dedicated nurse when his high-society fiancée balks at the fact that he considers caring for his patients more important than attending a cocktail party. Clark Gable, Myrna Loy. Preceded by a Three Stooges short. Presented by the U-M Victor Vaughan Society. $7. 7 p.m.

Dec. 5 & 6: **"Liberal Arts"** (Josh Radnor, 2012). A 30-something returns to his alma mater for a professor's retirement party and falls for an undergrad.

Dec. 6: **"United in Anger: A History of ACT UP"** (Jim Hubbard, 2012). Documentary about the AIDS activist movement, with rare archival footage and oral histories of members. The director introduces the film and does a Q&A after the screening. 5:10 p.m.

Dec. 9: **"Elf"** (Jon Favreau, 2003). Goofy comedy starring Will Ferrell as a man raised as an elf at the North Pole who goes to NYC to reunite with his biological father. James Caan, Zooey Deschanel, Mary Steenburgen. Free. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 9: **"Barrymore"** (Eric Canuel, 2011). Film of a live performance of a 2011 production of William Luce's 1996 2-man play that depicts John Barrymore reminiscing about his life and career as he prepares, a few months before his death, for a 1942 revival of his 1920 Broadway triumph as Richard III. Stars Christopher Plummer. Also, *Backstage with Barrymore,* Canuel's 45-minute documentary on the making of the film that features interviews with Helen Mirren, Julie Andrews, and Zoe Caldwell. $22 (MTF members, $18; students, $12) in advance at ticketweb.com and at the door. 5 p.m.

Dec. 9 & 10: **"Middle of Nowhere"** (Ava DuVernay, 2012). When her husband is sentenced to 8 years in prison, Ruby drops out of med school to focus on his well-being.

Dec. 11 & 13: **"The Flat"** (Arnon Goldfinger, 2011). Documentary about a shocking discovery the director makes while cleaning out the flat that belonged to his grandparents, both immigrants from Nazi Germany. Hebrew, German, and English; subtitles.

Dec. 13: **"Shut Up and Play the Hits"** (Will Lovelace & Dylan Southern, 2012). Film that documents the influential band LCD Soundsystem's final concert on Apr. 2, 2011 at Madison Square Garden. Proceeds benefit 826michigan's writing programs for kids. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $8) in advance at shutupandplay.brownpapertickets.com. 7 p.m.

Opens Dec. 14: **"Hitchcock"** (Sacha Gervasi, 2012). Biopic that stars Anthony Hopkins as Alfred Hitchcock. Helen Mirren, Scarlett Johansson.

Opens Dec. 14: **"A Royal Affair"** (Nikolaj Arcel, 2012). Historical drama, set in the 18th century, about the romance between the Queen of Denmark and the royal physician.

Dec. 16: **"Miracle on 34th Street"** (George Seaton, 1947). Heartwarming comedy about an amiable old man working as a department store Santa who ends up in court on trial for insanity when he tells a skeptical young girl that he's the real thing. Edmund Gwenn, Natalie Wood, Maureen O'Hara. Free. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 23: **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). Sentimental classic about a man who gets a second chance at his own life on Christmas Eve. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. Free. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 25: **"E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial"** (Steven Spielberg, 1982). Fantasy adventure about a young boy who befriends a creature from outer space. Sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth. Reese's Pieces and Moon Pies available. $5 in advance, $7 at the door (3 for $20; 4 for $25). 10:30 a.m.

Slow Food Film Festival. $5 donation. 975–4500. Food Gatherers (1 Carrot Way, off Dhu Varren), 7–9 p.m.

Dec. 12: **"Food Stamped"** (Shira & Yoav Potash, 2010). Humorous documentary that follows the directors as they attempt to eat a healthy diet on a food-stamp budget. Also, a rap about local food by a performer TBA and refreshments.

U-M Center for Chinese Studies Fall Film Series. A retrospective of films by King Hu, a pioneering master of martial arts action films. Mandarin, subtitles. Free. 764–6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A (entrance at the Fishbowl on the east side of the bldg.), 7 p.m.

Dec. 1: **"The Valiant Ones"** (King Hu, 1975). Meditative action movie, which uses intricate fight scenes to reveal character, about a 16th-century husband-and-wife sword fighting team hired to protect China from Japanese marauders.

U-M Center for Japanese Studies. FREE. 764–6307. U-M Natural Science Auditorium, 830 North University, use the entrance nearest the Diag, 7 p.m.

Dec. 1: **"Spirited Away"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 2001). Dazzling Oscar-winning animated fantasy about a young girl who discovers a secret world of strange spirits and sorcery. When her parents are transformed, she must find the courage to free herself and return her family to the outside world. Highest grossing film in Japanese history.

U-M English Department Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group. FREE. 764–2253. 1180 U-M Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel at Murfin, North Campus. 7 p.m.

Dec. 11: **"Last Year at Marienbad"** (Alain Resnais, 1961). Mesmerizing, voluptuous puzzle of a film, a poetic parable about a man who confronts a bewildered woman and insists that they had an affair in the past. French, subtitles. Pizza. Age 21 & older admitted.

U-M Screen Arts and Cultures. FREE. 764–0147. Natural Science Auditorium, 6–11:30 p.m.

Dec. 14 & 15: **"Lightworks Festival."** Screenings of animated, digital, and 16mm movies made by film students. Note: The Saturday show is usually "packed," says an organizer; get there early.

UMMA. FREE. 764–0395. UMMA Auditorium (525 S. State), 7 p.m.

Dec. 4: **"Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry"** (Alison Klayman, 2012). Documentary about China's most famous international artist who has been beaten and bullied by Chinese authorities for his critiques of the Chinese government.

Dec. 7: **"Cultures of Resistance"** (Iara Lee, 2011). Documentary about people in various cultures who have committed their lives to promoting change. With footage of Brazilian capoeira masters, Niger militants, Iranian graffiti artists, Rwanda women's movement leaders, and more.

WCBN-FM. FREE admission. 763–3500. Arbor Brewing Company (114 E. Washington), 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 11: **"Jubilee"** (Derek Jarman, 1978). Cult fantasy in which Queen Elizabeth I is transported in time to the decrepit Britain of the 70s. Score by Brian Eno, with appearances by several punk icons and performances by Wayne County and Adam & the Ants..

Fireside Festival of New Works: Performance Network. See 2 Sunday. Tonight: ***Road Through Heaven,*** Ricky Martinez's magical realist coming-of-age drama, set on an island in the Caribbean, about an orphan caught up in a lovers' triangle that explores the responsibilities of friendship, the determination to will dreams into realities, and the poetry of life and death. 7 p.m.

★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss ***Philobiblon,*** 14th-century book collector and monk Richard de Bury's book about librarianship. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. *Every Wed.* All invited to join a discussion of Rudolf Steiner's *An Outline of Esoteric Science. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 485–3764.*

★Concert Band: U-M School of Music. Rodney Dorsey conducts this music student ensemble in Makris's *Aegean Festival,* Zare's *Mare Tranquillitatis,* Tull's *Sketches on a Tudor Psalm,* Woodenden's *Suite Française,* Gorb's *Dances from Crete,* and Shostakovich's Dance no. 1 from Jazz Suite no. 2 and his Waltz no. 2. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Huron Valley Harmonizers: Kerrytown Concert House. Director Rob Pettigrew leads this local men's *a cappella* barbershop chorus in a program of holiday music. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20 general admission (students, $10). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★Caroline Helton, Scott Piper, & Martin Katz: U-M School of Music. Soprano Helton, tenor Piper, and pianist Katz—all U-M professors—perform Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'Été,* Debussy's *5 Baudelaire Songs,* and various works by Duparc. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

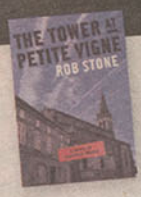
★Jazz Alumni & Creative Arts Orchestra Concert: U-M School of Music. The U-M Creative Arts Orchestra, an adventurous music student jazz ensemble, is joined by U-M jazz alumni, including composer-pianist **Stephen Rush,** bass clarinetist **Jason Stein,** tenor saxophonist **Matt Bauder,** pianist **Amy Bormet,** bassist **Alana Rocklin,** trombonist **Vincent Chandler,** and saxophonist **Dean Moore.** Program TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wed.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian

THE TOWER AT PETITE VIGNE
A NOVEL OF OCCUPIED FRANCE
BY ROB STONE



When a German construction crew arrives at a French village to build a flak battery in anticipation of the D-Day invasion, its inhabitants are confronted by the war they had kept at bay since 1940.

"This novel delivers what fans of the genre expect: tension, intrigue, and action. It also delivers some things often missing in historical fiction: a complex examination of the heroes and villains on both sides, and a look at the fine line between self-preservation and collaboration."

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Dec. 24th 7:30pm
"A Festival of Lessons and Carols"
Based upon the annual presentation at King's College, Cambridge.
Readings from the Christmas Story are alternated with choral and congregational singing of carols.

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GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor. *Dec. 5 & 12.* Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a beginner lesson. *9–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. $5 (students, $4), includes lessons. 945–8428.*

6 THURSDAY

★**Older Adults Thursday: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thurs.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. **Current Events** discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch ($3) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. *Dec 6:* **Jewish Family Services.** Geriatric Service Coordinator Diane Fenske discusses the programs and services of her organization. *Dec 13:* Beth Israel Congregation rabbi Robert Dobrusin discusses **"Jewish Lessons My Grandmother (and Lucy Ricardo) Taught Me."** *Dec 20:* **Food Gatherers** development director Mary Schlitt discusses her organization. *Dec 27:* **Alpha House** volunteer coordinator Kathy Koehler discusses this local family-oriented homeless shelter and the people it serves. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. *Dec. 6, 7, & 9.* Hilary Cohen directs this award-winning local children's theater company in Jeff Duncan's musical adaptation of the Dickens Christmas classic about crabbed old Ebenezer Scrooge and his transformation after visits by 3 spirits on the night before Christmas. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available for blind audience members by prearrangement. *10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. (Dec. 6 & 7), 2 & 4 p.m. (Dec. 9), Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (kids, $8) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.** *Dec. 6 & 13.* Lectures by visiting scholars. *Dec. 6:* Frankel Center fellow Lisa Silverman on **"Art of Loss: Madame d'Ora, Photography, and the Return of Jewish Property after the Holocaust."** *Dec. 13:* University of Utah English professor Maeera Shreiber on **"Addressing Others, Acquiring Selves: Martin Buber and the Dialogic Poetics of Admiel Kosman."** *Noon, 202 S. Thayer, Room 2022. Free. 763–9047.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *Dec. 6, 13, & 20.* Performances by area musicians. *Dec. 6:* "Sounds of the Season" by the **Dodworth Holiday Brass Ensemble.** *Dec. 13:* Traditional klezmer music by the **Ann Arbor Klezmer Trio.** *Dec. 20:* Holiday harmonies by the local band **Counterpoint.** *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital Main Lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

"Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petits fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also, fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. *1 & 4 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $10.50 (babies age 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required. 665–2757.*

★**"Economic Liberalism and the Weakness of the State: Monetary Lessons from the French Revolution": U-M Center for European Studies Conversations on Europe.** Talk by University of Indiana history professor Rebecca Spang. *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★**"Jazz at Michigan and the Future of Jazz Education": U-M School of Music.** Panel discussion with U-M dean emeritus Paul Boylan, senior vice provost Lester Monts, and U-M professors Geri Allen, Ellen Rowe, and Ed Sarath. *4 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Negro Cloth, Planters' Hoes, and the Geographies of Plantation Provisioning in Antebellum America": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Lecture Series.** Brown University history professor Seth Rockman discusses the design histories of northern-made goods destined for southern slave plantations. *4–6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615–7400.*

★**Amitav Ghosh: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** *See review, p. 65.* Fiction reading by this internationally respected, award-winning Bengali Indian author. Ghosh's widely praised 2011 novel, *River of Smoke,* is the 2nd book in his *Ibis* trilogy, set in the 1830s, about the politics, culture, and trade surrounding the British East India Company's opium network. "No writer in modern India has held a novelistic lamp to the subcontinent's densely thicketed past as vividly and acutely as Amitav Ghosh," writes a *New York Times* reviewer. *5:10 p.m., UMMA auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764–6330.*

★**Comhaltas.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *6:30–9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. 255–5310.*

Euchre Night: Out Loud Chorus Fundraiser. All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. *7 p.m., CUBS' AC in Colonial Lanes, 1950 South Industrial. $10. 973–6084, 663–0036.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thurs.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★**Annual Show-and-Tell & Holiday Party: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Club members show their mineral specimens. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

★**"The Object, The Objective: Necessary or Accessory? Perspectives on the Object in Today's Museums": U-M Museum Studies Program.** Talk by Chicago History Museum curatorial affairs director John Russick. *7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 936–6678.*

★**Yellow Room Gang: Ann Arbor District Library.** In-the-round performances by this group of 8 award-winning veteran Michigan songwriters who get together regularly to share their new work. Members are **David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba,** and **Michael Hough & David Tamulevich** of the local duo Mustard's Retreat. The group also performs at the Chelsea Depot on Dec. 5 (see listing). *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

"White as Snow, Red as Blood: The Story of Snow White": EMU Theatre Department. See 1 Saturday. 7 p.m.

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 7 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dancing to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. *7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 (students, free). 395–4223.*

Winter Concert: Kol Hakavod. This popular chorus, dubbed the "U-M's Jewish a cappella sensation," sings a program of Jewish and secular songs. *7:30–9:15 p.m., U-M Hillel, 1429 Hill St. $10 (students, $5). 769–0500.*

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

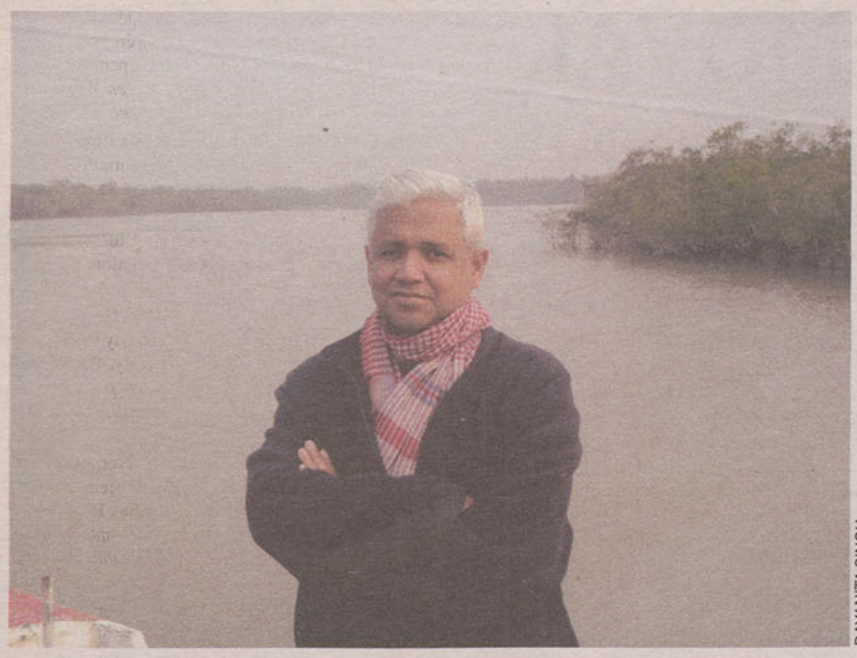
"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Theatre Department. *Dec. 6–9.* U-M theater professor Malcolm Tulip directs U-M drama students in Shakespeare's delightful comic fantasy, set in an enchanted forest, about a jealous tiff between the king and queen of the fairies, and the mortals snared in their mischief. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $20 & $26 (students, $10) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"Twitter Tasting: Go-To Gifting Wines": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Whole Foods wine buyers and thirstygirl.com wine experts lead tastings of 3 wine & cheese pairings. *8–9 p.m., Whole Foods, 990 W. Eisenhower, Cranbrook Village shopping center. $15. 997–7500.*

"57th Annual Study Break Concert": U-M Friars. This self-styled "crack squad of "supercrooners," an a cappella octet drawn from the Men's Glee Club, performs an eclectic mix of everything from slow ballads to upbeat dance tunes to original parodies that give a college-themed twist to classic songs. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. $6. ummgc.org/friars.*

★**Woodwind Chamber Music Recital: U-M School of Music.** Music students perform Stravinsky's Octet, Beethoven's Trio for 2 Oboes and English Horn, and other works TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Celebrating Tagore: Translations Through Music, Dance, and Poetry": U-M School of Music.** Eugene Rogers conducts the **University Choir,** an orchestra TBA, and U-M professors—including flugelhorn player **Ed Sarath,** pianist **Geri Allen,** bassist **Robert Hurst,** saxophonist **Andrew Bishop,** percussionist **Michael Gould,** and vocalist **Mousumi Banerjee**—in a program that celebrates the 150th anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the venerated Bengali poet and musician who became the



DAYANITA SINGH

Amitav Ghosh

History and language

Amitav Ghosh writes big, sprawling novels that encompass gigantic swaths of history. Characters in his books are fictional, but he is also comfortable inventing moments for historical figures; for instance, in *River of Smoke,* the second volume in his projected Ibis Trilogy (which he says might grow to four or five books before it's over), two young Asian men on their way to England end up conversing with Napoleon during his final exile on St. Helena. But most of the history that shapes Ghosh's fiction is the history of Asia—India, Burma, China—and of British colonialism in that half of the planet.

The Ibis Trilogy explores the people and the moment that led up to the Opium War, that mid-nineteenth century conflict between the British and the Chinese empires that was a cynical, and successful, effort to protect the British opium trade in China.

It's a history seldom discussed in the United States, but much of the rest of the world understands Western colonialism in this context. For more than a century the British forced Indian farmers on the Gangetic Plain, perhaps the most fertile region of the subcontinent, to cultivate only opium poppies. The British East India Company processed this opium, then smuggled it more or less openly into China, where they encouraged what became an epidemic of addiction. When the Chinese emperor tried to outlaw this incredibly lucrative and destructive trade, the British went to war. They succeeded in continuing their addictive business for another half century and, incidentally, getting a century-long lease on the island of Hong Kong.

Amitav Ghosh re-peoples this history with an extraordinary cast of characters, from the widow of a poppy farmer near Banaras to a mixed-race American sailor to a wealthy Bombay merchant of Persian heritage to Cantonese traders who at that moment were likely the richest men in the world. It is good to be reminded, in our time of global hubris, that many of these people, even the poorest among them, were the first genuinely global citizens, forced by colonial trade to move across continents and languages.

Language, in fact, becomes one of the fascinating central moments of the Ibis Trilogy. The characters speak Cantonese and a number of the languages of India, as well as in the pidgins of both trade and navigation. Here's a sentence picked almost at random: "On reaching the enclave the lascars and lime-juicers had gone, as was their custom, straight to the shamshoo-shacks of Hog Lane, so as to get scammered as quickly as possible." If that sentence seems impenetrable to you, I can only try to reassure you that in the context of *River of Smoke* it is completely understandable and will not even slow you down. In fact, your easy ability to understand the language will be one of your pleasures in the book. And it allows a window into the rich and complicated lives of Amitav Ghosh's many characters.

Amitav Ghosh reads from his work at UMMA on December 6, and speaks at the Hatcher Library on December 7.

—Keith Taylor

first non-European Nobel laureate in 1913. Also, classical Indian dance choreographed by U-M professor **Sreyashi Dey** and narration by U-M undergrad creative writing program director **Keith Taylor.** Program: Sarath's *Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva* and *Sorrow Persists, Joy Prevails* and Nabors' *Aguner Parashamni. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Oblivion Project: Kerrytown Concert House. This innovative local tango band performs a tribute to composer Astor Piazzolla's influential and increasingly popular "nuevos tangos," which assimilate folk idioms to jazz and classical sensibilities. Performers include violinist **Gabe Bolkosky,** bandoneon player **Julien Labro,** cellist **Derek Snyder,** pianist **Tad Weed,** bassist **John Holkeboer,** and percussionist **Alex Trajano.** *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Nicking the Outside Edge": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Concert. *Dec. 6–8.* An evening of original choreography by U-M dance majors **Sabrina Imamura, Sammi Rosenfeld, Stefania Spadaro-Bliss,** and **Katy Telfer.** *Note:* These shows often sell out very quickly. *8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $5 at the door only, beginning at 7 p.m. 763–5460, 763–5461.*

"Iolanthe": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. *Dec. 6–9.* This accomplished local town-and-gown company presents Gilbert and Sullivan's 1882 comic operetta about the fallout from a secret love affair between the fairy Iolanthe and a mortal Lord Chancellor. The plot centers on their son, Strephon, who loves the humble Phyllis but is kept from marrying her by several nobles who also covet her. The fairy band reacts by placing Strephon into Parliament, where his magical powers ensure the passage of any bill he supports. When Strephon drafts a bill basing membership eligibility in the House of Lords on intelligence, the peers are thrown into a tizzy. *Iolanthe* is especially prized for its music, including the arias "O Foolish Fey" and "Blue Blood," and the dizzying patter song "When You're Lying Awake with a Dismal Headache." *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $20 (seniors age 65 & over, $18; students with ID, $10) in advance*

RAGTIME EXTRAVAGANZA!
GRAMMY WINNER IAN WHITCOMB
WILLIAM BOLCOM & JOAN MORRIS
HOSTED BY JOHN NEVILLE ANDREWS
RIVER RAISIN RAGTIME REVUE
WITH JAMES DAPOGNY
ERIN MORRIS & HER RAGDOLLS
LILY LARUE
MICHIGAN THEATER
VAUDEVILLE
BURLESQUE • MUSIC HALL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 • 8PM
MICHIGAN THEATER, ANN ARBOR
The River Raisin Ragtime Revue (R4), America's premier ragtime orchestra, presents a wonderful evening of vaudeville, burlesque and music hall. Joining R4 will be the acclaimed song duo of William Bolcom and Joan Morris, internationally-renowned ragtime and jazz pianist and composer James Dapogny, Grammy-winner Ian Whitcomb on ukulele and vocals (some will remember Ian from his British Invasion days as a mop-haired pop-star, singing the hit "You Turn Me On"), burlesque dancer Lily LaRue from Hollywood, CA and Erin Morris and Her Ragdolls dancing up a storm. R4 will premier William Hayes' newest ragtime gem, the "New City Slickers Rag," and Dapogny's orchestration of his attempt to write the rag that Johannes Brahms never did. All of this will be emceed by John Neville-Andrews, the hilariously funny head of the University of Michigan Theatre Performance department. Prepare for a night of entertainment like you've never before experienced!
Tickets $30 general admission or $50 priority seating.
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SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the city's Public Services Area clears over 98 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, city crews sand the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and city-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The city snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the city and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 794-6367.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses–** in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

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SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the city depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City Council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The city reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than one inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

WASTE & RECYCLING

Place trash and recycling carts in a clear street or driveway by 7 a.m. on your weekly collection day, with 3' between each cart. Special pickup (disabled) customers must provide clear walkways to trash and recycling carts. Access to dumpsters must be clear of snow and ice.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised November 2010

at brownpapertickets.com/event/271534 and at the door. 647–8436.

"The Hollow": PTD Productions. *Dec. 6–9 & 13–15.* David Andrews directs local actors in Agatha Christie's 1951 whodunit about an outspoken, self-centered doctor whose murder stirs up a pile of suspects, including his unhappy mistress, his adoring wife, a visiting Hollywood film star, and the young man in love with the doctor's mistress. Cast: Tricia Turek, Mark Bernstein, Liz Greaves-Hoxsie, Adrienne Frank, Dennis Platte, Nick Boyer, Elisha Kranz, Amita Madan, Ken Karges, Nan Bauer, Mitchell S. Gillett, and David Melcher. *8 p.m. (Dec. 6–8 & 13–15) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 9), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (students & seniors, $12; Thurs., pay what you can) in advance at showtix4u.com & by phone. 483–7345.*

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Jen Kober: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 6–8.* Ann Arbor debut of this Louisiana-bred comic actress known for her sassy demeanor and shaggy-dog stories about love lost at the buffet, road trip adventures at Waffle House, midnight mishaps at Walmart, and other misadventures. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Fri.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

Balkan Buddtime: Canterbury House. This ensemble of U-M jazz studies alumni performs traditional Balkan folk music in a jazz-based improvisational style. With pianist Jordan Shapiro, trombonist and kaval player Bethanni Grecynski, cellist and gadulka player Abby Alwin, bassist Ben Rolston, percussionist Drew Schmieding, and guitarist Darrin Greenawalt. Opening act is the **Kirschenmann/Rocklin Duet,** the duo of electric trumpeter Mark Kirschenmann and electric bassist Alana Rocklin, former bandmates in the 90s in the local jazz-funk ensemble Maschina. *9:30 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $5-$10 donation. 764-3162.*

7 FRIDAY

★**"Family Fun Time": Westminster Presbyterian Church.** *Every Fri.* Parents, grandparents, and caregivers invited to spend time with their infants through preschoolers making seasonal crafts, playing games, and sharing snacks. *9–11 a.m., Westminster Presbyterian, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 668–0549.*

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 6 Thursday. Today's 10 a.m. performance is sold out. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★**"The Welcome Mat: How Jews Encounter the World": Temple Beth Emeth Lunch and Learn.** *Dec. 7, 14, & 21.* TBE rabbi Robert Levy leads an informal discussion. Bring a lunch, if you wish. *Noon–1 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–4744.*

★**Dark Eyed Molly: Happy Hour Monthly Mezzanine Musical Series.** Performance by this local Americana guitar-and-vocal duo. Holiday snacks and happy hour specials. *4–7 p.m., Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975–4500.*

Holiday Greens & Gift Market: Kerrytown. Sale of works by artisans and crafters, Christmas trees, fresh greens and roping, and baked goods, including German stollen, streusel, cookies, and caramel corn. Also, hourly bell chimes and a chance to visit Santa and sing carols. Hot spiced drinks, German brats, hot dogs, and s'mores around fire pits. *4–9 p.m., Farmers Market and Kerrytown Shops. Free admission. 369–3107.*

★**"A Conversation with Amitav Ghosh, Anton Shammas, and Jonathan Freedman": U-M Author's Forum.** Internationally respected, award-winning Bengali Indian author Ghosh (see review, p. 65), U-M English professor Anton Shammas, and U-M English professor Freedman discuss the Dec. 6 "Celebrating Tagore" event (see listing) and ***River of Smoke,*** the 2nd book in Ghosh's *Ibis* trilogy, set in the 1830s, about the politics, culture, and trade surrounding the British East India Company's opium network. Ghosh also gives a reading at UMMA on Dec. 6 (see listing). *4–5:30 p.m., 100 U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764–3166.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Yourist Studio Gallery. *Dec. 7–9.* Show and sale of works by local ceramics artists. Tonight includes an artist reception with appetizers and desserts. *5–8 p.m. (Dec. 7) and 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Dec. 8 & 9), Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662–4914.*

"Moonlight Madness Craft Show": Saline Community Education. Juried show and sale of works by more than 145 crafters. Also, concessions, cookie sale, Christmas greens sale, kids craft, gingerbread display, and raffle. *5–11 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. $3 admission. 429–5922, 429–8020.*

★**"Fun Friday": U-M Natural History Museum.** With screenings of the 30-minute planetarium show ***Star Talk*** (5:30, 6:30, 7:30, & 8:30 p.m.) about what you can see in the current night sky, a reading of Henrietta and Paul Strickland's ***Dinosaur Roar!*** (6 & 7 p.m.) with images from the book projected on the planetarium dome, and a **"Cow Eye Dissection"** demo (6 p.m.). Space limited for each event. *5–9 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free admission. Planetarium shows are $3. 764–0478.*

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** See 5 Wednesday. 5:30 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for dinner, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah, and discussion on a theme TBA. Children welcome. *6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (family, $25). Reservations required at jewishculturalsociety.org. 975–9872.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. MSU. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, 616 E. Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, ranked #2 in the GymInfo preseason poll, prepares for the 2012–2013 season with an intrasquad meet. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 332–7964.*

★**"Search Inside Yourself: The Unexpected Path to Achieving Success, Happiness (and World Peace)": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to join a discussion of early Google engineer and personal growth pioneer Chade-Meng Tan's self-help book. *7–8 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Polar Express Pajama Party": Barnes & Noble.** Barnes & Noble staff (in costume) present an interactive reading of Chris Van Allsburg's Caldecott Medal–winning tale of a magical train ride on Christmas Eve. The reading includes the ringing of silver bells and other fun activities. For kids age 3 & up, who are invited to come in bedtime attire (complete with pillows and stuffed animals). *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations required. 973–0846.*

★**"Festive Friday": Main Street Area Association.** *Dec. 7, 14, & 21.* Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling with 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Entertainment includes scenes by **Performance Network** actors, carols by local ***a cappella*** **ensembles,** and more. *7–9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668–7112.*

★**"Training Your Creative Process": Photo Studio Group Professional Photography Lecture Series.** Professional Farmington photographer Lesa shows and discusses her photographs. *7 p.m., Photo Studio Group, 834a Phoenix Dr. Free; preregistration required at photostudiogroup.com/pls.html. 680–7232.*

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. *Dec. 7–9.* Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers ages 8–18 in a production of her choreography of Tchaikovsky's ballet, with narration based on E.T.A. Hoffman's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." The Dec. 9 matinee is preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a **Sugar Plum Fairy Tea** ($10 in advance only) featuring cast visits and photos, and refreshments. *7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. $15 (students and age 60 & over, $10) in advance at youthdancetheatre.org and at the door. 475–3070.*

"White as Snow, Red as Blood: The Story of Snow White": EMU Theatre Department. See 1 Saturday. 7 p.m.

"Disco Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate to 70s disco music. Prizes for best costume. *7:15–8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6235.*

★**"An Organist's Christmas": First United Methodist Church.** Local church organists Thomas Strode, Marcia van Oyen, and David Hufford present a festive program of holiday music. Also, Boychoir of Ann Arbor choristers lead an audience carol singalong. Reception follows *7:30 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. Free. 662–4536.*

★**Fall Concert: U-M Headnotes.** This a cappella ensemble of law students performs jazz, popular, and traditional songs in 4–part harmony. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Anderson Room. Free. umlsheadnotesboard@umich.edu.*

"Firebird": EMU Dance Program. Sherry Jerome directs EMU dance students in her choreography of Stravinsky's brilliantly orchestrated ballet based on the Russian fairy tale in which Prince Ivan enlists the aid of a magical glowing bird in his effort to rescue maidens held captive by an evil ogre. The score is performed live by the **EMU Symphony Orchestra.** An abridged version of this program is presented earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in 2 free 50-minute **children's concerts** (reservations required at 487–2448). *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 (seniors & students, $8; children under 12, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

"2nd Saturday Contra Dance on 1st Friday": Sharon Hollow String Band. Don Theyken & friends call to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. Newcomers are asked to arrive at 7:30 p.m. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10 (students, $5). 408–1829.*

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. *8–10 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (enter through Haven Hall on the Diag side of the building). Free. 764–3440.*

★**Christmas Concert: Concordia University Music Department.** The Concordia Choir and Wind Ensemble perform Christmas hymns. *8 p.m., Concordia Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes. Free. 995–7389.*

★**Geri Allen: U-M School of Music.** Performance by this U-M jazz piano professor and guest musicians TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Cairn to Cairn: Kerrytown Concert House. This local Celtic and folk music trio of guitarist Terry Farmer, singer-flutist Kelly McDermott, and bassist Rob Crozier performs chamber-folk style carols and world holiday music. "Cairn to Cairn explores the world and sound of Celtic folk with a kind of clear-eyed precision, but with heart and soul as well, which means they make these tunes breathe like they're actually alive," says *All-Music Guide* reviewer Steve Leggett. *8 & 9:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

1st Annual Holiday Pops Concert: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Arie Lipsky directs the orchestra in seasonal works, including excerpts from *The Nutcracker,* Strauss's *Overture to Die Fledermaus,* Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Greensleeves,* Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride,* and more. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$40 ($2 discount for seniors) in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, suite 470), at a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn (MA), a Green Wood favorite, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released several acclaimed CDs. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $17 (kids age 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"The Preacher's Daughter": National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Fundraiser. Performance of NKFM peer mentor David Lyle's holiday-themed play about a preacher who has to decide whether or not to donate his daughter's kidneys after she dies in a tragic car accident. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by a cocktail reception. Formal attire. *8 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $35 in advance at nkfm.org/events. 222–9800.*

"Nicking the Outside Edge": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Concert. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Iolanthe": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Wolf Cry Wolf": New Theatre Project. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Theatre Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Hollow": PTD Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

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Coping with Grief During the Holidays

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for children coping with the death of a family member. Here are some tips to help:

- Light a candle to remember the person
- During family gatherings, talk about memories of the person who died
- Know that it's okay to have fun
- Make an ornament or decoration for the person who died — or one that reminds you of that person.

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These classes will be held on Tuesdays from 6:15pm – 7:05pm. Classes are designed for the beginning hockey skater. It is required skaters complete the Snow Plow Sam 1 class before taking a hockey class. Equipment is recommended.

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Home Club of the AAFSC Hockettes and World and Olympic Coaches Yasa Nechaeva and Yuri Chesnichenko

Jen Kober: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Swing Dance Party: Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Fri.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, blues, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. The Dec. 21 dance is an **"End of the World Party."** *9 p.m.–midnight, Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. $5 (students with ID, $3; $1 discount for AACTMAD members) includes lessons. 417–9857.*

8 SATURDAY

★Eco-Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. *Dec. 8 & 15.* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided, or bring your own. *Note:* Kids age 15 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 16–18 must submit a permission form. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Dec. 8), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Dec. 15), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking at Matthaei). Preregistration requested. 647–8528.*

★"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Natural History Museum. This family-oriented dinosaur program is highlighted by **"Digging Dinosaurs"** (11 a.m. and 1 & 3 p.m.), a presentation by Midland paleontologist Joseph "Paleo Joe" Kchodl, author of the children's book *Hidden Dinosaurs* and coauthor of the *Dinosaur Detective Club* series, on how dinosaur fossils are formed and the stories they tell. Also, a fossil dig, a dinosaur craft, screening of dinosaur films, and other family-oriented demonstrations and activities. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Dec. 8 & 9.* About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (517) 605–0624.*

1st Annual Holiday Sale: Huron Valley Wood Turners. Show and sale of bowls, pens, vases, platters, and other handcrafted holiday gifts. 20% of proceeds benefit the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., 2892 Bateson Ct. (south off Dhu Varren west of Pontiac). Free admission. 915–4915.*

19th Annual Cookie Walk: First United Methodist Church. Sale of homemade cookies, including decorated sugar cookies, Russian tea cakes, snickerdoodles, peanut blossoms, and more. Proceeds benefit church missions. *9 a.m. until sold out (often before 11 a.m.), FUMC, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. 662–2745.*

The Tiny Expo. Show and sale of holiday gifts by local artists and crafters. *10 a.m.–7 p.m., Metal and Pot & Box, 220 Felch. 5¢ suggested donation. info@tinyexpo.com.*

"Winter Wonders & Solstice": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All kids, accompanied by a parent, invited to learn about the change of seasons, make decorations out of native plants and evergreens, and make a holiday card to take home. *10 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. $10 per child. Metered parking. 647–7600.*

Annual Holiday Arts & Craft Show: Grass Lake Sanctuary Fundraiser. Grass Lake Sanctuary volunteers and participants of previous GLS women's wellness retreats show and sell their works, including blown glass, photography, paintings, jewelry, body care products, homemade herbal teas, knits, and more. Also, craft demos and snacks. Gift wrapping available. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Aprill Wellness Center, 104 Aprill Dr., suite 4. Free admission. 531–9570.*

"Friends at Front Porch Holiday Sale": Front Porch Textiles. Local artists and crafters show and sell hand-woven scarves, towels, throws, yarn, elegant silk flowers, jewelry, pottery, found art, art tiles, and mobiles. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., 1219 Traver. Free admission. underwoodfrontporch.com, 662–7134.*

Annual Greens Workshop: Ann Arbor Garden Club. Club member Denise Looker helps participants make a take-home wreath. Bring a vase if you wish to create an arrangement instead. Followed by a potluck. *10 a.m.–noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $15 materials fee. Reservations required. 788–3298.*

★Death Cafe. All invited to join a discussion, led by local home funeral educator Merilynne Rush, of how preparation for conscious dying can help one live more conscientiously. *10 a.m.–noon, Eastern Accents Bakery, 214 S. Fourth Ave. Free. Reservations required. 395–9660.*

★"Paper Making": Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department. All invited to make a colorful sheet of recycled paper using torn paper, water, and everyday household supplies. Also, display of "tree-free" papers. Followed by guided tours of the city's recycling and trash processing center. *10 a.m.–noon, Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.*

"Nature Tales": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All kids ages 1–5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited to hear stories about **winter.** *10–11 a.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $2 per person. 997–1533.*

★"Baking Pizzelle": Downtown Home & Garden. DH&G Staffer Barb Kraft shares her family recipe and demonstrates techniques for making these traditional Italian holiday waffle cookies. *10 a.m.–noon, Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★Coffee Tour: Zingerman's Coffee Company. One of Zingerman's Coffee managing partners, Allen Leibowitz or Steve Mangigian, offers a free tour of the coffee company and talks about the intricate world of java. *11 a.m.–noon, Zingerman's Coffee Company, 3723 Plaza Dr. Free. 929–0500.*

6th Annual Holiday Artists' Studio Sale. *Dec. 8 & 9.* Show and sale of works by 6 local artists, including letterpress and handmade art books by Jean Buecher Bartlett, silk and wool scarves and shawls by Michele Montour, paintings and painted ceramics by Julie Bedore, and functional pottery and lighting by Kate Tremel, Nancy Green, and Monica Wilson. Refreshments and music. *Noon–5 p.m., Kate Tremel residence, 627 Gott St. (off Miller). Free admission. 327–3727.*

"1930s Christmas on the Farm": Saline Area Historical Society. *Dec. 8 & 9.* A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas, with a fresh-cut Christmas tree. Also, docent-guided tours of the house, and demos of a sock-knitting machine, quilting, and spinning. *Noon–5 p.m. (Dec. 8) & 1–4 p.m. (Dec. 9), Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan, Saline. $1 (kids, free). 944–0442, 769–2219.*

"Un Ballo in Maschera": Quality 16. Live broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of director David Alden's dreamlike staging of Verdi's opera, a dramatic story of jealousy and vengeance. Stars Marcelo Alvarez, Sondra Radvanovsky, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Kathleen Kim, and Stephanie Blythe. The broadcast is reprised on tape Jan. 9 & 10. *12:55 p.m.–5 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets $23 (seniors, $20; kids age 12 & under & students, $13.50) in advance at gqti.com/met.aspx and at the door. 623–7469.*

★"Playing with Polymers": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–5 invited to learn about polymers by using materials like borax and glue to make slime, bouncy balls, and mock snow. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★"You Wrote a Novel, Now What? Revising and Submitting Your Work": Ann Arbor District Library. Talks by Dzanc Books cofounder Dan Wickett and EMU creative writing teacher and poet Jeff Kass. Q&A. In conjunction with the end of National Novel Writing Month, a nonprofit promotion challenging teens and adults to write a 50,000-word novel by the end of November. *2–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. See 7 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★Euterpe Wind Quintet. This local ensemble of Washtenaw Community Band members performs a program of winter holiday music, including *The Skater's Waltz, Sleigh Ride,* selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite,* and seasonal standards like "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Members are flutist Beth Wondolowski, oboist Pat McLain, clarinetist Ernest Brandon, French horn player Ashley Burtner, and bassoonist Kathy Fredette. *3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 439–8613.*

★"Family Fun Night": Barnes & Noble. With **scavenger hunts** (4 & 5 p.m.), a performance by magician **Magic Joe** (6 p.m.), and a **kids dance mob** (7 p.m.). *4–8 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★Boychoir of Ann Arbor: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. This local ensemble performs holiday works. *4–5 p.m., Whole Foods Café, 990 W. Eisenhower, Cranbrook Village shopping center. Free. 997–7500.*

★Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Edward Parmentier directs this music student ensemble in works by Tallis, Caccini, Frescobaldi, Telemann, and Bach. *4 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★"Folk Song Jam-Along": First Unitarian Universalist Church. All invited to join a family-oriented, recreational sing-along of folk songs, chants, rounds, hymns, and more. Bring your instruments if you'd like to jam along as well. *6:30 p.m., FUUC, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 426–7818.*

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★**"Annual Holiday Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. The program begins with a social hour (bring a healthy snack or dessert to share). Tea is served. *6:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

★**U-M J. Edgar Edwards Reading Series.** Readings by 1st-year MFA fiction students Daniel Hornsby and Melinda Misener. *7–9 p.m., U-M Work Gallery, 306 S. State. Free. 764–6330.*

"16th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. This ad hoc local vocal ensemble presents an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide. The concert features works performed with and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Performers include LaRon Williams, Yarrow Halstead, Edie Lewis, Mary Wilson, Sam Clark, Robin Wilson, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, Sam Deschamps, Dale Petty, Lori Fithian, and Carpenter Elementary School music students. Reception follows. Proceeds benefit a local charity TBA. *7 p.m., Vineyard Church, 2275 Platt. $15 in advance, $20 (or what you can afford to pay) at the door. Kids under age 12, free. 761–7962, 369–4977.*

"White as Snow, Red as Blood: The Story of Snow White": EMU Theatre Department. See 1 Saturday. 7 p.m.

"The Glorious Reign": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy Victorian Ball. Various 19th-century dances that were popular during the reign of Queen Victoria, from 1837 to 1901. With live music by Childgrove. Victorian attire encouraged—or come as a visitor from the far reaches of the Victorian empire. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by dance lessons. *7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $30 (includes lessons). Preregistration requested at vintagedance.com. 769–0041.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Singles and couples invited. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $5. 822–2120.*

A Cappella Concert: U-M GMen. This all-male *a cappella* ensemble performs songs by Michael Jackson, Florence and the Machine, Kimbra, Fleet Foxes, and others. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $10 (students, $7). kestanth@umich.edu.*

"A Holiday Concert": Measure for Measure. This local men's chorus, directed by Pioneer High School choir director Steve Lorenz, and the **U-M Men's Glee Club** perform separate programs of holiday music. The 2 groups also come together to sing Moses Hogan's magnificent "Ride On, King Jesus." *8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium. $15 (kids age 12 & under, seniors, & students with ID, $12) in advance and at the door. 649–7664.*

Lisa Pappas: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Performance by this Michigan singer-songwriter who sings twangy pop-folk and country originals, and who is celebrating both the release of her new CD *Letting Go* and the 10th anniversary and online release of her 2002 CD *Harvest of Life*. She's accompanied by guitarist and harmony vocalist Michael Weiss, bassist Glenn Simon, cellist Tom Lyon, and percussionist Will Osler. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $8 ($15 for 2). 665–0409.*

Dianne Reeves Quartet: University Musical Society. The renowned, multi Grammy-winning Detroit-born jazz vocalist Reeves is known for exciting live performances and a warm rapport with audiences, as well as for sprinkling anecdotes and reflections about the music between songs. Reeves' lauded vocal abilities include her scatting, improvisational ease, rhythmic virtuosity, and a wide range that's been compared to legendary jazz vocalist Sarah Vaughan's. "Reeves has a voice to die for—crystalline and bell-like in her soaring soprano notes, warm and embracing in her middle range, dark and feline in her low chest tones, and always delivered with spot-on pitch accuracy," writes a *Los Angeles Times* reviewer. Tonight she is accompanied by pianist Peter Martin, bassist Reginald Veal, drummer Terreon Gully, and guitarist Romero Lubambo. The opening act is **Raul Midon,** a NYC-based veteran jazz-soul singer-songwriter from New Mexico known for his passionate singing and his distinctive, heavily percussive guitar stylings that draw on flamenco music. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$48 in advance at ums.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Iolanthe": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Hollow": PTD Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Wolf Cry Wolf": New Theatre Project. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Theatre Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Lisa Lampanelli: Live Nation. This acerbic, raunchy comic has been described as "a cross between Don Rickles, Archie Bunker, and a vial of estrogen." A frequent guest of Jay Leno and Howard Stern, Lampanelli has also made 2 hit specials for Comedy Central. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $39.50 in advance at Ticketmaster outlets and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745–3000.*

Jen Kober: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

9 SUNDAY

★**National Ocean Sciences Bowl: Michigan Sea Grant.** High school students compete in quiz bowl-style rounds of questions about ocean and Great Lakes biology, chemistry, geology, physics, technology, history, and economics. The winners of this competition go on to regional competitions in the spring. *7:30 a.m.–5 p.m., U-M Dana Bldg., 440 Church. Free. 763–1437.*

★**"Caring Santa": Briarwood.** All kids with special needs are invited for a "sensory friendly" visit with Santa. The event is held when the mall is closed to create a calmer environment. *9–11 a.m., Briarwood. Free. 769–9610.*

"Girls on the Run 5K and Celebration Expo." Noncompetitive 5-km run for girls ages 8–14 and their coaches, families, and friends. Medals for finishers. Followed by a celebration with a bounce house, concessions, music, face painting, and more. *9:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.), EMU Rynearson Stadium, 7989 Hewitt, Ypsilanti. $25 in advance by Dec. 5; $30 after Dec. 5. girlsontherunsemi.org.*

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. Large show and sale of antiques in various styles from Americana to Art Deco. No reproductions are allowed, experts check every booth, and the items' authenticity is guaranteed. Deliveries available. Concessions. No pets. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $6 (children age 12 & under accompanied by an adult, free). (937) 875–0808 (before the show), 429–3145 (day of show).*

"Santa Central": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Kids invited to visit with Santa, play reindeer games, and enjoy a hayride. Snack. *10 a.m. and 12:30 & 2:30 p.m., Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $6 per child (adults, $3; kids under age 1, free). Preregistration required. $5 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★**Hanukkah Celebration: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** Family-oriented program featuring candle lighting, singing & dancing, bounce houses, games, and a Hanukkah Shop where—for a nominal cost—kids can purchase gifts for family and friends. Lots and lots of latkes. All invited. *10:30 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

"Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of mid-19th-century Christmases, with period decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and live holiday music. Also, a chance to visit with Father Christmas and make period holiday crafts to take home. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds, and this year each room of the farmhouse showcases the work of a different local florist. *Noon–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2 (family, $5; children under 3, free). 794–7120.*

U-M Detroit Observatory. Half-hour docent-guided tours of photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763–3482.*

Winter Concert: Chaverim B'Shirim. This local Jewish choir performs songs from Richard Adler and Jerry Ross's *The Pajama Game* and Kander & Ebb's *Chicago*. Preceded at 1 p.m. by refreshments. *1:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Donation. 663–1978, 971–0990.*

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. All experienced

JOSHUA_KESSLER

The Klezmatics

Making Hanukkah happier

As a Jew I have a problem around Christmastime. No, it's none of the things you probably think it is. I don't have a problem with the focus on consumerism and materialism—not any more than many Christians do, at any rate. Nor do I resent being in the minority or not getting to participate in the biggest birthday party in the world. Neither is it off-putting being wished Merry Christmas by people who assume I too am a Christian; I'm happy to accept, and offer, good wishes any time of the year. It's also no biggie that Christians get to have a tree, while we Jews joke about Hanukkah bushes. It's certainly not that Xmas can be spelled only two ways, while we Jews can't agree on which of more than a half dozen spellings of our holiday to use. Here's my problem: I love Christmas music—the carols, the holiday standards—but I'm not crazy about Hanukah music. We Jews have a glorious musical heritage, just not during the Festival of Lights.

Let's face it, Christians croon "O Holy Night;" we chant "Oh Chanukkah." Christians harmonize "Deck the Halls;" we warble "Dreidle, Dreidle." Christians have Handel and his Messiah in three parts; we have Adam Sandler and his three (count 'em! three!) versions of his Chanukah song. As we sing at another holiday, "It would have been enough …"

But lately my holiday discomfort has been considerably soothed—and this season will be eased even more. Three years ago, the Klezmatics released *Happy Joyous Hanukkah*, a CD that I've since enjoyed all year round. And for December 14, the sixth day of Hannukah, my true love gave to me tickets to see them at the Ark.

The Klezmatics, one of the finest klezmer bands in the world for more than twenty-five years, show no signs of hanging up their horas. Virtuoso instrumentalists, singers, scholars, and inveterate collaborators, they've written, performed, or recorded with, among many others, Itzhak Perlman, Tony Kushner, and Allen Ginsberg. And with Woody Guthrie—the Okie Folkie himself! Turns out that in the 1940s Guthrie was married to Marjorie Mazia, a Jewish dancer in Martha Graham's company and, though he never converted, was for a time immersed in Jewish culture. And whatever Woody encountered, he wrote about. In the past few years Guthrie's daughter, Nora, has been unearthing hundreds of his unpublished song lyrics. When she came across some Hanuka-themed ones, she knew who best would breathe melodic life into them. The resulting music is a perfect pairing of Guthrie's effervescent creativity, wondrous wordplay (he created Honeyky—yet another spelling!), and social consciousness, with the can't-stay-in-my-seat beats and the must-listen-to-raptly music of the Klezmatics.

Their concert will be the best Chanukeh gelt I'll get this year.

—Sandor Slomovits

English country dancers invited. With Pittsburgh caller Gaye Fifer and music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, and Steve Schneider. Followed by a potluck dinner. *2–5:15 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

★"Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of works by the Seoul-based art collective YHCHI known for innovative video works that blur the boundaries between media, technologies, and cultural histories. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★"Crafting with Copper Leaf": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to make a decorative vase or candle holder. Materials provided. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4555.*

"Crisler Concert": Michigan Marching Band. A festive concert featuring highlights of the past season's pregame and halftime shows, plus U-M school songs. *2 p.m., Crisler Center. $10 (kids age 11 & under, $3) in advance at Revelli Hall (350 E. Hoover), and at the door. 764–0594.*

★Tumbao Bravo: Ann Arbor District Library. Cuban jazz standards and originals by this local quintet led by saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. The title cut from the band's CD *Un Systema Para Todo* was used as the soundtrack to an episode of *Burn Notice*, and the band recently released its 4th CD, *Casa Versailles. 2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. See 7 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Iolanthe": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 6 Thursday. 2 & 4 p.m.

"White as Snow, Red as Blood: The Story of Snow White": EMU Theatre Department. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Hollow": PTD Productions. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": U-M Theatre Department. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

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"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**"Community Read-Aloud: Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*": Concordia University.** All invited to read part of Concordia University English professor Mark Looker's adaptation of Dickens' own reading script of his classic Christmas tale. *3 p.m., Concordia University Earhart Manor Living Room, 4090 Geddes. Free. 995–7389.*

★**Arts in Motion Dance Studio.** Recital by Arts in Motion music students and a demo by upper-level dance students. *3–5 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. Free. 222–6246.*

★**Orpheus Singers: U-M School of Music.** Grad students conduct this music student ensemble in C.P.E. Bach's Magnificat and Mozart's "Vesperae Solennes de Confessore." *3 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"A Winter's Journey: Songs of Warm Hearts and Bad Weather": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus.** Linda Jones directs this 70-member local chorus in everything from Baroque-era songs to modern jazz, folk, and show tunes. Accompanist is Ted Wyman. *3 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport. Free. 717–7581.*

★**Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band.** Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday music highlighted by Larry McTaggert's *Holiday Celebration*, a U.S. Air Force Band–commissioned mash-up of "Over the River and Through the Woods" with "In Dulci Jubilo" and "Joy to the World." Also, Carl Strommen's arrangement of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Rick Kirby's *A Winter's Night*, Larry Kirchner's Latin-flavored arrangement of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," and 3 medleys—Sammy Nestico's *A Fireside Christmas*, Joe Murphy's *Mariah Carey Christmas*, and Sean O'Loughlin's *Holiday Portraits*. Also, a Christmas sing-along, and Santa visits with a bag of treats for kids. *3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426–2734.*

Sunday Matinee Puppet Show: Dreamland Theater. See 2 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★**Chamber Choir and University Choir: EMU Music Department.** Trey Jacobs directs these 2 music student ensembles in a program of choral music TBA. *4 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

St. James Mass: Ann Arbor Grail Singers. Carmen Cavallaro directs this 16-member women's early-music choir in the first Michigan performance of this 12th-century Mass from the *Codex Calixtinus*, a book of advice for pilgrims following the Way of St. James across southern France to the shrine of St. James in Galicia. The chants in the Mass predate Gregorian chant and include one of the earliest known examples of 3-part polyphony. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $15 (seniors, $12; students, $5). 662–0631.*

"All About the Trio": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M jazz pianist Ellen Rowe leads her trio in a lecture-concert about the music of respected jazz pianist and composer **Hank Jones.** With bassist Paul Keller and drummer Pete Siers. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

Latke Fest: Chabad House. Family-friendly festival with a "fire and ice" scientific demonstration by the New York kids entertainment group **Mad Science,** a **latke-eating contest,** latke tasting, a potato sack race, a chance to make a potato menorah, and more. Dinner is served. Also, an 8-foot menorah is on display. *4–6 p.m., Chabad House, 715 Hill. $8 (family, $25) in advance by Dec. 6; $10 (family, $30) at the door. 995–3276, ext. 15.*

★**Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club.** All invited to discuss 2 Christmas mysteries. In MC Beaton's ***Busy Body,*** there are too many suspects when a small-town Scrooge is murdered. Anne Perry's ***Christmas Vigil*** includes 2 murder mysteries set during Christmas time in Victorian London. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**"Does This Baby Make Me Look Straight?": Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Dan Bucatinsky's memoir about gay parenthood. *4:30–7 p.m., member's home TBA. Free. 763–4168.*

★**"An International Christmas Concert": Northside Community Church.** Chris Grapentine directs the church's chancel choir and Sheree Clark directs the bell choir in a program of carols and music from around the world. With pianist Kathryn Goodson. *7 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662–6351.*

★**"Uncovered Masterworks": U-M University Philharmonia Orchestra.** This music student ensemble performs Weber's Concerto no. 2 for Clarinet and Orchestra with U-M clarinet professor **Chad Burrow,** Messiaen's *Les Offrondes Oubliées,* and Borodin's Symphony no. 3. Preceded at 6:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture about the program. *7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from ***Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes,*** Tony Kushner's celebrated 2–play series exploring the apocalyptic fears at the heart of contemporary culture, and ***'Night Mother,*** Marsha Norman's controversial 1983 Pulitzer Prize–winning drama about a divorced woman, living with her mother, who chooses suicide in an effort to take control of her own life. *7 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 647–4354.*

"Wolf Cry Wolf": New Theatre Project. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

10 MONDAY

★**Socrates Café: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All ages invited to join a philosophical discussion that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. The Socrates Café models its discussions on the book of the same name by Christopher Phillips. *10:30–11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

★**"Annual Member's Moment Night": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table.** Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War–related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from Huron River Dr.). Free. (517) 750–2741.*

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** *Dec. 10 & 11.* Kay Castaldo directs U-M opera grad students in scenes from different French operas. *7:30 p.m., U-M School of Music McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–2538.*

11 TUESDAY

★**"You've Taken the Picture—Now What?": Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Local photographer Fred Beutler introduces current technology for retouching and restoring photographs. All ages invited. *10–11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

"The Shah of Iran and Understanding the Troubled History of U.S.-Iranian Relations": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Talk by Al Gourdji, a retired Dow Corning corporate officer who lived the first 19 years of his live in Iran. Fourth in a series of 9 monthly lectures. *10–11:30 a.m., Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $10 at the door. $65 (members, $45) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are $20 a year. 998–9351.*

★**"Taking Stock of Europe's Crises: Politics, Debt, Recession, and the Euro": U-M Center for European Studies End of Semester Luncheon.** U-M history professor Joshua Cole moderates a panel discussion with U-M economics professor Jim Adams, U-M political science professor Anny Grzymala-Busse, and U-M law professor Daniel Halberstam. Free lunch served until it runs out. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★**"The Underground Book Railroad: Reading and Censorship in Women's Prisons": U-M Institute for the Humanities.** Talk by U-M Afroamerican and African studies professor Meg Sweeney. *12:30–2 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 2022. Free. 936–3518.*

"Ari's Best of 2012": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of his favorite Zingerman's products. An extremely popular annual event. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Events on 4th, Fourth Ave. just south of Kingsley. $45 in advance and (if available) at the door. 663–3400.*

★**"Alternative Hives": Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers.** Club members discuss the pros and cons of various hive shapes and constructions. Also, a discussion of the difference between organic and biodynamic beekeeping. *7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking). 660–8621.*

★**"Fabergé: The Rise and Fall": Ann Arbor District Library.** Illustrated talk by Detroit Institute of Arts docent on this current DIA exhibit of more than 200 imperial Russian treasures drawn from the collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Navigating Winter with Raw Foods": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration*

required at the co-op or at peoplesfood.coop/news_and_events/. 994–4589.

Dave Bennett Quartet: King's Keyboard House. Local Dixieland and swing ensemble, led by clarinetist Bennett, that specializes in Benny Goodman standards. Tonight's program also includes some holiday tunes. *7 p.m., King's, 2363 E. Stadium. $20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 663–3381.*

★**"Last Call at the Oasis": Sierra Club Book Club.** All invited to discuss Karl Weber's book about the global water crisis. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

★**Winter Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School.** The Pioneer Symphony Orchestra performs works TBA. *7:30 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994–2120.*

★**Saxophone Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Performances by students of U-M professor Donald Sinta. *7:30 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

37th Annual Christmas Concert: The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music professor emeritus Patterson directs this popular local choir in Christmas spirituals and works by African American composers. *7:30 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Freewill offering. 769–4437.*

★**Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** See 10 Monday. 7:30 p.m.

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts this music student ensemble in Schumann's Romantic Symphony no. 4 and Respighi's *Feste Romane,* an opulent and cinematic work that evokes the atmosphere of a Roman festival, including dance rhythms, mandolin, drunken songs, and the calls of a barker. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture about the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

"So … What Do You Think?": U-M Dance Department. U-M dance grad students **J. Lindsay Brown, Anna Tru Jonkman, Lauren Morris,** and **Jessica Post** each present an excerpt from their upcoming thesis concert and discuss the research behind it. *8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $5 at the door only, beginning at 7 p.m. 763–5460, 763–5461.*

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

12 WEDNESDAY

★**"Rereading the Crusades: Armenian Sources": U-M Armenian Studies Program.** Talk by UCLA museum scientist Tamar Boyadjian. *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★**"Food for Thought: A Jewish Food Book Club": Temple Beth Emeth.** Rabbi Lisa Delson leads a discussion of ***Miriam's Kitchen,*** Elizabeth Ehrlich's memoir about her mother-in-law, a Holocaust survivor. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by socializing (bring your dinner, if you wish). *6–7:15 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–4744.*

"13 Mile Apalachicola Oyster Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a dinner with a menu of dishes featuring 13 Mile brand oysters from Apalachicola Bay on the Florida Gulf Coast. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. $50 ($75 includes wine pairings. Beverages available a la carte). Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★**"Green Wrapping": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and youth in grade 3 & up invited to make bags, bows, and other gift packaging using repurposed paper. *7–8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Adjusting to Your Child's Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by U-M Center for the Child and the Family ASD program psychologist Fiona Miller. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Fiction Book Club: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Villages,*** John Updike's wry novel of sentimental education and sexual pursuit that chronicles the life of a modern American everyman from cradle to grave. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Another & Another: An Anthology from The Grind Daily Writing Series": Nicola's Books.** Local poets **Megan Levad** and **Francine J. Harris** read and discuss their contributions to this book about the Grind, a project that encourages writers to finish work on a daily basis. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** *Dec. 12 & 26.* All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short stories (Dec. 12) and to read their own or other

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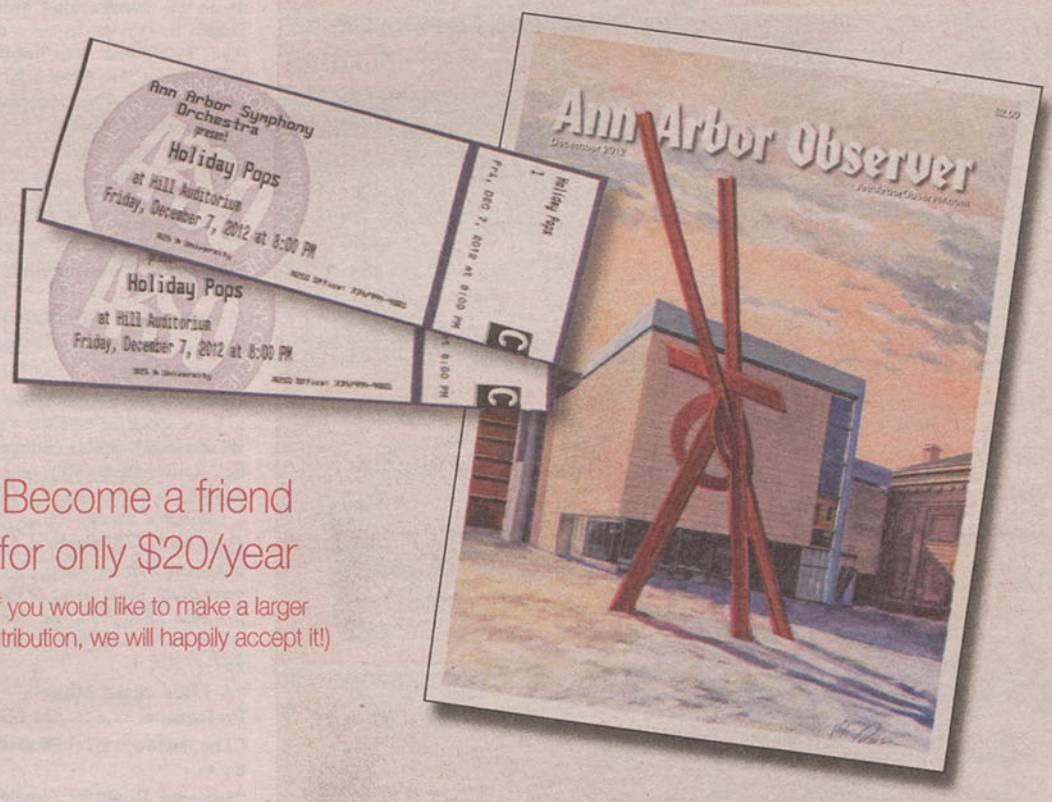

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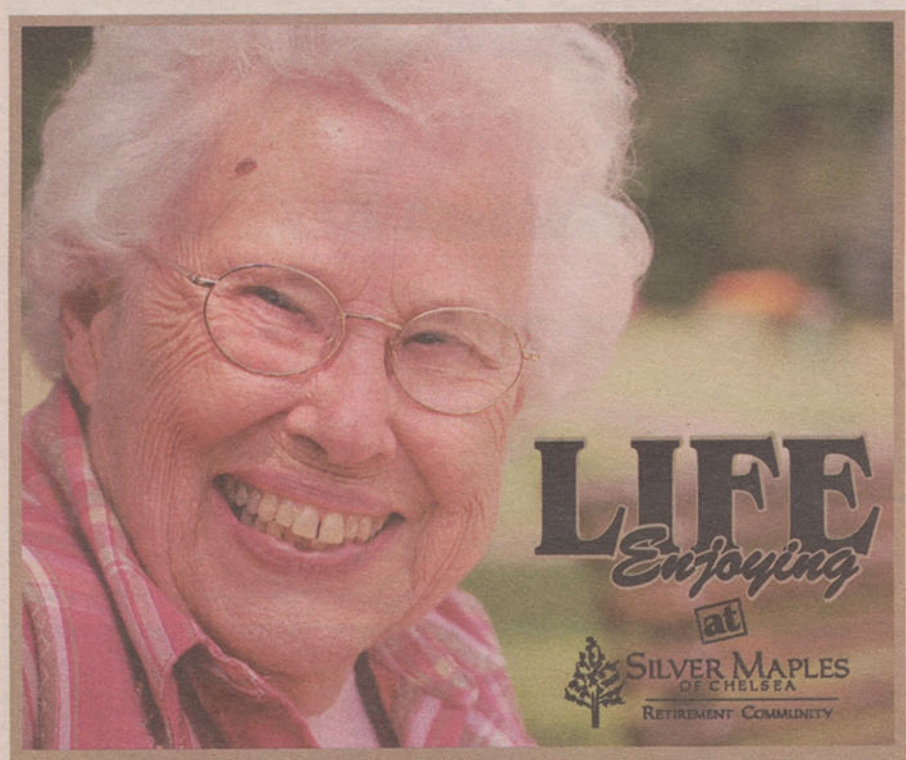

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favorite poetry (Dec 26). *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Torah on Tap": Temple Beth Emeth.** Rabbi Lisa Delson leads a discussion of a Jewish text. No prior knowledge of Judaism is required. *7:30–9 p.m., Bab's Underground Lounge, 213 S. Ashley. Free admission; buy your own drinks. Reservations required by Dec. 10. ldelson@templebethemeth.org, 665–4744.*

★**Donald Sinta Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House.** Named in honor of U-M saxophone professor Sinta, this U-M music student saxophone ensemble performs standards and new commissions. Program: David Kechley's *Rush,* David Maslanka's *Recitation Book,* Zack Browning's *Howler Back,* Roger Zare's *LHC,* Thierry Escaich's *Tango Virtuoso,* and more. With soprano saxophonist Dan Graser, alto saxophonist Zach Stern, tenor saxophonist Joe Girard, and baritone saxophonist Danny Hawthorne-Foss. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

13 THURSDAY

★**Coffee Break Concert Series: First Baptist Church.** Church organist Shin-Ae Chun leads a **carol sing-along.** Preceded by refreshments. *12:15 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. 663–9376.*

"Rush Hour Relief": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. *Dec. 13, 20, & 27.* Whole Foods staffers discuss wine. Tastings with cheese and appetizers. Topics include **"Robust Winter Reds with Caviar"** (Dec. 13), **"Christmas Wines"** (Dec. 20), and **"Sparkling Wines, Champagnes, Oysters, and Cheese to Ring in 2013"** (Dec. 27). Also, a **Michigan Beer Tasting** (Dec. 14, 5–7 p.m., various prices) with a representative from Bells Brewing Company on hand to answer questions. *5–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods wine bar, 990 W. Eisenhower, Cranbrook Village shopping center. $25 (Dec. 13), $17 (Dec. 20), & $19 (Dec. 27). 997–7500.*

Team USA Under–17 vs. Fargo. *Dec. 13 & 14.* The younger of the 2 Ann Arbor–based USA Hockey national development teams plays this U.S. Hockey League rival. Team USA Under–17 also has a USHL match this month against **Muskegon** (Dec. 21), and Team USA Under–18 has a match against **Indiana** (Dec. 18). *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $7 (seniors, students, active military, & kids, $5; youth hockey players with jerseys, $1). 327–9251.*

"Holiday Ales": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen festive holiday ales spiced with fruit, herbs, and spices. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance, $30 (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 7 p.m.

Holiday Party: Ann Arbor Ski Club. All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Refreshments. Must be 21 or older. Followed by dancing to music spun by DJ Paul. Bring a toy for a children's charity TBA. *7:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 786–2237.*

★**Annual Winter Sing: Pioneer High School.** Steven Lorenz leads all 11 of the school's vocal groups in works TBA. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994–2120.*

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Hollow": PTD Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Global Jazz Project: Kerrytown Concert House. This trio of Detroit-area veteran musicians—saxophonist **Mark Hershberger,** guitarist and mandolin player **Bastian Trimpe,** and percussionist **Jerry LeDuff**—performs an energetic blend of traditional and avant-garde jazz-funk infused with world music concepts. Tonight they are joined by drummer **Gayelynn McKinney** and bassist **Dave Sharp.** *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

Al Jackson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 13–15.* Ann Arbor debut of this 7th-grade teacher turned stand-up comic, a ubiquitous presence on both MTV and Comedy Central, where he's a national spokesman for its Address the Mess Campaign to advance social awareness. He's known for edgy, hard-nosed observational humor delivered with a laid-back swagger and a beaming smile. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

14 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tot Time: Winter Wonderland": Leslie Science & Nature Center. All kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited to make a snowflake catcher to take home, listen to a super snowy story, and enjoy a variety of wintertime activities. Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *10–11:30 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver. $7. 997–1553.*

"An Old Fashioned Christmas Extravaganza Show and Sale": Christmas Show and Sale, Inc. A Christmas festival, with gift sales, a Charles Dickens–style play, skits, and carolers. Also, an auction (proceeds benefit injured soldiers and their families). *11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Dec. 14), 10 a.m.–7 p.m. (Dec. 15), & 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 16), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 (seniors & students, $8; $3 discount for those who donate 2 or more cans of food) admission. 418–3305.*

★**"FYC (Families with Young Children) Chanukah": Temple Beth Emeth.** Latke dinner followed by crafts. This event precedes the family-friendly 7:30 p.m. Hannukah service, in which all menorahs in the sanctuary are lit (bring a menorah, if you wish). *6 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–4744.*

★**Chamber Orchestra Recital: Pioneer High School.** Program TBA. *7 p.m., PHS Little Theater, 610 W. Stadium. Free. 994–2120.*

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas": Saline Varsity Blues Holiday Show. *Dec. 14 & 15.* This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7–18 presents a program of solo, duo, and small-group vocal performances of contemporary and traditional holiday songs. *7 p.m., Saline Middle School auditorium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. $10. 944–3162.*

★**Kitty Donohoe: Barnes & Noble.** Performance by this popular Irish American roots-music singer-songwriter from Detroit who specializes in story songs. Also, a chance to learn about the LostVoices creative writing program for incarcerated and at-risk youth. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. *Dec. 14 & 15 (different locations).* Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of boys ages 9–17 in its 26th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The program includes a series of settings of several early English poems and carols that begins with the moving Gregorian chant "Hodie Christus natus est" and concludes with the joyous "Deo Gracias" in its original setting for treble boy choir and harp. A performance of Colin Brumby's "Jesu, son most sweet and dear" by the older boys tenor and brass ensemble also features harp accompaniment. Also, Britten's beloved *A Ceremony of Carols* and a variety of both traditional and new carols ranging from the "Gloria" from Charpentier's Christmas Midnight Mass and Renaissance composer Tomas Luis de Victoria's famous setting of "O magnum mysterium" to a novel setting of the Yoruba carol "Irapada" and Malcolm Archer's new carol "When Christ was born of Mary free." Audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. *7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10; youths 17 & under, $5) in advance at aaboychoir.org and at the door. 663–5377.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. WMU. *Dec. 14 & 15. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. $19–$25. 764–0247.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Dec. 14 & 28.* All invited to join an ongoing discussion of Rudolf Steiner's *An Outline of Occult Science.* Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 944–4903.*

"Magnificat, Alleluia": Women's Chamber Chorus. David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in Z. Randall Stroope's Magnificat, Randall Thompson's "Alleluia," the gospel song "One Mile," "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again" from *Phantom of the Opera,* the English folk songs "The Oak and the Ash" and "The Water of Tyne," and several traditional holiday tunes. Also, a performance by the group's **Joyous Ringers** handbell choir. Piano accompanist is Andrew Anderson. *7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. 665–9271.*

"Alice's Adventures in Other Worlds": Young Actors Guild. *Dec. 14–16.* Sue Roe directs young local actors in her version of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 14 & 15) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 15 & 16), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $15 (students, $10). 913–9800.*

"Aida": Skyline High School. *Dec. 14–16.* Anne-Marie Roberts directs Skyline students in Elton John and Tim Rice's rock musical based on the Verdi opera about the forbidden love between an Egyptian soldier and a princess in exile. Cast TBA. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2:30 p.m. (Sun.), Skyline High School, 2552 N. Maple. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $6; VIP tickets, $25) in advance at showtix4u.com, $12 (students & seniors, $8) and at the door. 994–6515.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. *Dec. 14–16.* Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. *8 p.m. (Dec. 14 & 15) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 15 & 16), Power Center. Tickets $25 (students & seniors, $20; kids age 12 & under, $15) available in advance at Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Eric Vloeimans & Florian Weber: Kerrytown Concert House. Acclaimed Dutch trumpeter Vloeimans, regarded as one of Europe's most extraordinary musicians, and German pianist Weber perform original chamber jazz compositions featured on their 2011 album *Live at the Concertgebouw,* "one of the most elegant, delicate, and emotionally honest records of [2011]," writes an *All About Jazz* reviewer. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Wolf Cry Wolf": New Theatre Project. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Hollow": PTD Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Al Jackson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

15 SATURDAY

66th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The count area is a 15-mile–diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. This makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening. *6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Jacco Gelderloos at 973–9422. $5 fee to defray costs of publishing the results in* North American Birds. *To sign up as a feeder watcher, contact Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or khagemeister@sbcglobal.net.*

Annual Christmas Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church. Christmas cookies, holiday breads, spinach pie, baklava, Russian pastries and gifts, religious items, and more. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., 9900 Jackson (2 miles west of Baker), Dexter. Free admission. 717–6814, 272–3826.*

★**"Christmas Celebration": Aglow International.** A Christmas party, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant and caroling at Courthouse Square Apartments. Aglow is an international Christian organization devoted to meeting people's spiritual needs. *9:30–11:30 a.m., 340 WCC Liberal Arts Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free (pay for your own lunch). (248) 613–7974.*

★**Grange Junior Makers: Pittsfield Grange.** Kids, accompanied by an adult, invited to work on electronics, robotics, and woodworking projects. Today's project is **"LED ornaments."** *10 a.m.–noon, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 926–5079.*

★**"The Wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita": Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Ann Arbor.** Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, D.C. minister Swami Atmajnanananda discusses the Purushottama Yoga chapter of the Bhagavad Gita. Followed by guided meditation. *10 a.m.–2 p.m. (with a break at noon–12:45 p.m.), Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free, but donations accepted. Preregistration*

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- Janis A. Bobrin, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner

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★"Chinese Paphiopedilums": Great Lakes Judging. Orchid grower Katie Payeur discusses these ladyslipper orchids. *11 a.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free (metered parking). (517) 546–8303.*

"West Side Neighborhood Art Hop." The homes and studios of several west-side artists are open for a show and sale of their art and craft items. Live music at some venues. *Noon–5 p.m., venues and map available at facebook.com/WestsideNeighborhoodArtHop. Free admission. 996–0702.*

"Aida": Quality 16. Live broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of Verdi's celebrated opera, a drama set in ancient Egypt about an enslaved Ethiopian princess caught in a love triangle with Radames, a heroic young Egyptian warrior desired by the Egyptian king's daughter. Stars Liudmyla Monastryska, Roberto Alagna, and Olga Borodina. The broadcast is reprised on tape Jan. 16 & 17. *12:55 p.m.–5 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets $23 (seniors, $20; kids age 12 & under & students, $13.50) in advance at gqti.com/met.aspx and at the door. 623–7469.*

★Classical Bells: Ann Arbor District Library. Darlene Ebersole directs this acclaimed Detroit-area handbell ensemble whose varied repertoire includes classical, inspirational, seasonal, popular, and even ragtime and swing tunes. *1–2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★"DIY Decor": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to make holiday or year-round home decorations using paper and buttons. Materials provided. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

48th Annual Community *Messiah* Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by Richard Ingram. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 2:15 p.m. Cider, water, and hot tea provided; bring goodies to share. *2:30 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. $5 suggested donation to help defray cost of using the building. Prospective orchestra members should contact Meg Gower at megower@umich.edu or 433–0150.*

Youth Orchestra Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Performances by young local musicians. Program TBA. *3 p.m., Michigan Theater. $5 (kids, free). 213–2000.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 16 Friday. *3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw.*

★LezRead Book Club. All lesbians invited to discuss poetry. *4–6 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct. Free. 663–0036.*

★Treetown Community Chorus. David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a varied program of holiday music. Piano accompanist is Corky Landes. Followed by a potluck. *4 p.m., Gladwin barn, 4105 W. Liberty. Free; donations accepted. 355–7738.*

"Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing-along led by former orchestra staff member Charley Sullivan as Santa. Musicians include an orchestra member and pianist Lori Zupan. Santa also reads *'Twas the Night Before Christmas.* Followed by cookies, apple cider, and photos with Santa. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $12 (kids, $8) in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, suite 470) & at a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

★Cultural Show: Children's Russian Club. Local Russian children present ***The Star Without a Name,*** Mihail Sebastian's 1942 play about a beautiful woman who runs away from her gambling lover and spends the night with an astronomer who's just discovered a new star. The play is performed in Russian, with English-language synopses provided. *5 p.m., WCC Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg. Auditorium LA175, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741–1953.*

★"All About Owls": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. A slide presentation followed by a hike to call owls. Bonfire & hot drinks. *7–9 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Beach Center, 3200 Jennings, north off North Territorial. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★"Celebrating Christmas": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America. All invited to sing (or listen to) traditional songs and carols and to hear a retelling of the Nativity story from the perspective of the Star of Bethlehem. Bring a dessert to share. *7–9 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 944–4903.*

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas": Saline Varsity Blues Holiday Show. See 14 Friday. 7 p.m.

★Bridge: Temple Beth Emeth. Players of all levels invited. *7:30 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. arnspell@att.net, 665–4744.*

"Alice's Adventures in Other Worlds": Young Actors Guild. See 14 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Aida": Skyline High School. See 14 Friday. 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 14 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Superior Donuts": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Wolf Cry Wolf": New Theatre Project. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Hollow": PTD Productions. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Jazz Nativity": Kerrytown Concert House. Up-and-coming Detroit pianist **Glenn Tucker** performs experimental jazz holiday music, including selections from Messiaen's *La Nativite du Seigneur,* a 1935 work for pipe organ depicting ideas and images from the Nativity. With trumpeter Paul Finkbeiner, reed player Andrew Bishop, bassist Jordan Schug, and drummer Jesse Kramer. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Grange. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to live music by the Lansing band **Oh! Contraire.** Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by a beginner lesson. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10 (members, $7). 426–0241.*

Al Jackson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

16 SUNDAY

★"Jewish Heroes and Heroines: Hannah Senesh": Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society Sunday Schmooze. JCS member Larry Kuperman tells the story of this Hungarian Jewish poet and freedom fighter who was executed by the Nazis at age 23. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

Annual Winter Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. AAFSC members of various ages and skating levels present solo, duo, and ensemble performances. Also, a performance by the AAFSC Hockette synchronized skating team. *Noon–2 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. Cash or canned food donation for Food Gatherers. 213–6768.*

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate with Frosty the Snowman to recorded holiday music. Free candy canes. *1–2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6235.*

"Brewing Methods": Zingerman's Coffee Company. Zingerman's Coffee Co. staff demonstrate and discuss 6–8 different ways to brew coffee, from filter drip to syphon pot. *1–3 p.m., Zingerman's Coffee Company, 3723 Plaza Dr. $10. 929–6060.*

★"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. Robinsongs for Kids director Robin Robinson presents a program of music and movement for babies through 5-year-olds. *1–1:40 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4555.*

★"A Thousand Letters Home: One WWII Soldier's Story of War, Love and Life": Barnes & Noble. Northville writer Theresa K. Irish discusses her collection of her father's nearly 1,000 letters written during his 38 months of service in Europe in WWII. Signing. *1 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★"Benjamin West: General Wolfe and the Art of Empire": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of military paintings that is highlighted by West's iconic 1776 painting, *The Death of General*

EMU drama students present *White as Snow, Red as Blood*, Virginia Glasgow Koste's family-friendly adaption of Snow White, Nov. 30–Dec. 2 and Dec. 6–9.

Wolfe, which flouted the conventions of the time and became one of the most celebrated paintings in Britain. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to celebrate the primal mother Danu and sun god Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. *2–5 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free. 277–1897.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All kids, accompanied by an adult, invited for contra and square dancing with live music by David West and Donna Baird. Grange-baked cookies. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $12 per family (members, free). 769–1052.*

★Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678–7549, 761–1451.*

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in Dance Alliance's 15th annual production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. *2 & 7 p.m., Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $13 in advance at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium in Ann Arbor) & Dance Alliance (811 W. Michigan, Saline), and at the door. 429–9599.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 14 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Alice's Adventures in Other Worlds": Young Actors Guild. See 14 Friday. 2 p.m.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Aida": Skyline High School. See 14 Friday. 2:30 p.m.

★Chamber Music Recital: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Performances by young local musicians. *3 p.m., AASPA, 637 S. Main. Free. 213–2000.*

"A Celebration of Carols": St. Thomas Catholic Church. Lucia Campbell directs the church's adult and children's choirs in Joseph M. Martin's festive cantata that combines favorite traditional carols with other holiday songs. Accompanist is Jihye Kim. *3 p.m., St. Thomas Catholic Church, Elizabeth at Kingsley. Freewill donation. 761–8606.*

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

Sunday Matinee Puppet Show: Dreamland Theater. See 2 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★Dexter Community Orchestra. This volunteer ensemble is joined by the Dexter High School Orchestra Strings and the Washtenaw Community Orchestra Chorus in Poulenc's Gloria, Bach's celebrated cantata "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," John Rutter's setting of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival*, and other Christmas favorites. Anthony Elliott conducts. *4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 355–0725.*

★"Traditional King's College Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. The music begins with a haunting solo treble performance of "Once in Royal David's City." *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

★"Fireside Fun": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All invited to sit around a campfire, roast marshmallows, and swap stories. If you like, bring camping chairs and s'mores fixings (marshmallows provided). *6:30–8 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 997–1533.*

★"A Christmas Celebration": First United Methodist Church. The church choir, vocal staff, and orchestra present a festive program of Christmas music highlighted by selections from Robert Shaw's *Many Moods of Christmas*, Vaughan Williams' *Hodie*, and Bach's B Minor Mass, along with an excerpt from Mozart's Clarinet Concerto featuring FUMC youth soloist Griffin Roy. *7 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. Free. 662–4536.*

"Wolf Cry Wolf": New Theatre Project. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

17 MONDAY

★Craft Program: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All ages invited to make a wreath with twine, felt, and hot glue. Materials provided. *12:45–2:15 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free; preregistration requested. 794–6250.*

★Embroiderers Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects together and learn about guild activities. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7–9 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2230 Pontiac Tr. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues for those who join). 994–4385.*

★Skazat! Poetry Series at Sweetwaters. Reading by Chicago poet **Nate Marshall,** star of *Louder than a Bomb*, an award-winning documentary about an annual youth poetry slam in Chicago. The program begins with open mike readings. *7–8:30 p.m.,*

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18 TUESDAY

★"Great Adventures from Around the Globe": Huron Valley Sierra Club. Club members and others show slides of their most adventurous trips. Refreshments. Send 10–15 digital photos to lighthawkpilot@gmail.com to participate. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking). 665–0248.*

The Moth Storyslam: Michigan Radio. Monthly open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3–5 minute story on the monthly theme. December theme: **"Aftermath."** The 3 teams of judges are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Space limited, so it's smart to arrive early. *7:30–9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), The Circus, 210 S. First. $5. 764–5118.*

★"A Holiday Concert Tradition": Ypsilanti Community Choir/Washtenaw Community Concert Band. Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir in "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," John Rutter's "Peronent Hodie," and Vince Guaraldi's "Christmas Time Is Here," and an arrangement of "O Magnum Mysterium." Christopher Heidenreich conducts the band in the *From Russia with Love* theme, selections from *The Nutcracker,* "Midnight Sleighride" from Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé Suite,* Alfred Reed's *Russian Christmas Music,* and Bach's arrangement of Vivaldi's Concerto for Organ with organist **James Wagner.** The program concludes with a joint band and choir performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*. The audience is encouraged to sing along. *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 481–9285.*

"A Heritage Holiday": Kerrytown Concert House. The popular local chorus Our Own Thing Chorale is joined by Detroit countertenor Darryl Taylor and acclaimed soprano Louise Toppin in a program of baroque arias and duets, African American art songs, and spirituals. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20 & $25. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

19 WEDNESDAY

Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All ages invited to join a discussion of a book TBA. *12:30–2 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★Kids Winter Craft Party: Barnes & Noble. A variety of supervised craft activities for kids age 3 & up. *6 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"La Clemenza di Tito": Quality 16. See 1 Saturday. 6:30 p.m.

★"Drummunity!" Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★"The Truth about Fats": Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. Talk by local chiropractor Shannon Roznay. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 975–4500.*

★"Whimbrels in Manitoba: Tracking a Long-Distance Migrant": Washtenaw Audubon Society. Slide-illustrated talk by WAS member and Cornell University junior Andy Johnson about these large shorebirds that breed in the arctic tundra and winter as far south as Tierra del Fuego. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking). 677–3275.*

★Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss Ana G. Valenzuela-Zapata and Gary Paul Nabhan's ***Tequila: A Natural and Cultural History.*** *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

20 THURSDAY

★International Neighbors. Tree of Life Cultural Arts Studio (Chelsea) dance teacher Jane Helzer introduces the fine points of **zumba,** a Latin-dance-inspired fitness craze. Wear comfortable clothes. All area women invited. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 995–1645.*

"La Clemenza di Tito": Quality 16. See 1 Saturday. 1 p.m.

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7 p.m.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

★Jazz Showcase: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Performances by middle school, high school, and adult jazz combos. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 213–2000.*

The Killers: EMU Convocation Center. Best-selling postpunk indie rock quartet from Las Vegas. "Like their hometown of Las Vegas, the Killers have a flair for anything supersize, sparkly, and over-the-top: soaring synth-pop operas, multipart arena-rock anthems, 'Bohemian Rhapsody'–style choirs," says *Rolling Stone* writer Melissa Maerz in her review of the band's 2009 CD *Day & Age,* and *Rolling Stone* writer Rob Fitzpatrick praises their new CD *Battle Born* for sustaining the band's trademark "great swirling mass of melancholic energy." *8 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt (north off Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. Tickets $32.50–$59.50 in advance at the EMU Convocation Center and at tiesto.com, and at the door. 487–2282.*

Mark Knope: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 20–22.* This Detroit native, a veteran of the national comedy circuit, is known for his impressions of celebrity voices and hilarious takes on the commonplaces of everyday life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $6 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $8 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

21 FRIDAY

"12.21.12: The Shift of Ages": Sandra Shears. This local spiritual channeler, who also goes by Sandya, leads a spirituality program that includes discussion, meditation, and energy alignment. Followed by a potluck (bring a dish to share). *11 a.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 206–1945.*

★Gaming Tournaments: Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 21–23.* Video game tournaments. *Dec. 21 (6–8:30 p.m.):* **"Ready Player One."** Adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to play many of the classic games mentioned in Ernest Cline's hit novel. *Dec. 22 (1–4 p.m.):* **Mario Kart: Double Dash.** For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *Dec. 23 (1–4):* **"Game + Watch: Muppet Mania."** All teens and preteens in grade 4 & up invited to play video games and watch a Muppet movie. Also, attendees invited to guess what movie will be shown and wear a costume related to it. The library offers this clue as to the movie to be shown: "This month's movie might include monsters, a frog, and a pig in space." *Various times, AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Winter Solstice Sing: Michigan Friends Center. All adults and older children invited to join an outdoor circle to learn and sing seasonal songs, rounds, and chants. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7448 Clark Lake Rd. (off Oakridge from Waterloo Rd. west of M-52), Chelsea. Donation. Preregistration requested. 475–0942.*

Robert Spalding Newcomb: Kerrytown Concert House. This local guitarist, sitarist, composer, and poet presents **"Possible Futures,"** a program of solo and duo improvisational music inspired by the end of the Mayan calendar. With local composer James Aikman and jazz composer-pianist Stephen Rush. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Mark Knope: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

22 SATURDAY

"The Fisherman and His Wife": Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Becky Fox directs Paul Vander Roest and Kerry Graves' musical adapted from Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale about a fisherman whose life is complicated when a mermaid who gets tangled in his fishing line grants him 3 wishes. Cast: Jeremy Salvatori, Carrie Wilson, and Gayle Martin. *1 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (age 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

4th Saturday Contra & Square Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Reuven AnafShalom, Ed Vincent, and Marlin Whitaker call to rousing old-time music by the Liberty String Band. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by a beginner lesson. *8–11 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off*

S. State across from the airport). $10 (members, $9; students, $5). 994–6494.

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Mark Knope: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

23 SUNDAY

★**"West Lake Hike or Ski": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Local outdoorsman Barry Lonik leads a ski or hike (depending on weather conditions) through this country preserve off Waterloo Rd. in Chelsea. *1 p.m., meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse (2501 Jackson Rd.) to carpool. Free. 477–5715.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–5763.*

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

Sunday Matinee Puppet Show: Dreamland Theater. See 2 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

24 MONDAY

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. *Dec. 24 & 31.* Skating to music by a DJ. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6235.*

★**Living Nativity: First Congregational Church.** Costumed reenactors, accompanied by a live camel, sheep, and donkey, re-create the traditional Nativity scene. *4–8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662–1679.*

★**Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns. Performed by the church's chancel choir and a brass quartet. Also, a 30-minute prelude precedes each program. *5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**Lessons and Carols: Northside Community Church.** A program of scripture readings, sacred music, carol singing, and a children's story, concluding with a candle lighting procession and singing of "Silent Night." Pianist is Kathryn Goodson. *7–8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662–6351.*

★**Lessons and Carols: Bethlehem United Church of Christ.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns. *7:30 p.m., Bethlehem UCC, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–6149.*

★**Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

★**"Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in a program of Christmas carols, anthems, and other music in candlelight. *10:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

25 TUESDAY (CHRISTMAS)

See Films, p. 63.

26 WEDNESDAY

"Hands-On Holidays: Hot vs. Cold": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 26–Jan. 6.* Family-friendly hands-on activities that explore temperatures. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Mon.–Sat., except Jan. 1) & noon–4 p.m. (Sun. & Jan. 1), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $10 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

27 THURSDAY

★**"Storytelling: New Year Nonsense": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local storytellers Laura Pershin Raynor and Rosalie Koenig present a program of ridiculous riddles and silly songs and stories for kids in grades K–3. *2–2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Rain Cloud Mobile": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. Materials provided. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

Reese Waters: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 27–29.* Veteran stand-up comic from Washington, D.C., a regular guest on late-night TV known for his fresh, trenchant observational humor about the trials of daily life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

28 FRIDAY

★**"Decoupage Boxes": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to bring favorite images from magazines, greeting cards, and other scrap paper to decorate a box. Other supplies provided. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Lantern-Lit Full Moon Walk": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All invited to join an enchanting lantern-lit walk through Black Pond Woods. *6–7:30 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $6 (family, $21) in advance, $8 (family, $30) at the door. 997–1533.*

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Reese Waters: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

29 SATURDAY

★**"Marshmallow Engineering Challenge": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 invited to build a construction project with toothpicks and marshmallows. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Reese Waters: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

30 SUNDAY

★**"In Search of the Blue Ash": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** A hike to look for these native ash trees that have 4-sided twigs. Also, a chance to learn about some of the other trees in the preserve. *2–4 p.m., Kosch Headwaters Preserve, 3268 N. Prospect Rd., ¼ mile south of Ford Rd., Ypsilanti. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**Joe Reilly: Ann Arbor District Library.** This popular local singer-songwriter presents an interactive program of environmental songs for kids in grades K–3. *2–2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"A Little Night Music": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

Sunday Matinee Puppet Show: Dreamland Theater. See 2 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

31 MONDAY (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

★**"Bring in the New Year Craft": Ann Arbor District Library.** All preschoolers through 5th graders invited to make hats and noisemakers for New Year's Eve. *2–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

Rocky LaPorte: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. This Brooklyn-born, Chicago-bred monologist, a former interstate trucker and Golden Gloves boxer, is known for his deadpan delivery and endearing but slightly twisted take on a variety of topics, from sports to his Italian family and his own experiences as a dad. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $25 reserved seating in advance, $30 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"Puttin' on the Glitz": Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by a DJ. Cash bar. Dressy attire; the price of admission includes hors d'oeuvres. *9 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $15 in advance, $20 at the door. 578–3664.*

"Striking 12": Performance Network. Staged reading of Brendan Milburn, Rachel Sheinkin, and Valerie Vigoda's pop musical, a modernization of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl." It's the story of a weary, lonely urbanite who finds a quirky, young woman at his door on New Year's Eve selling lights designed to assuage the seasonal affective disorder common this time of year. *9 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. $50 (students, $35) includes post-performance hors d'oeuvres and champagne reception. 663–0696.*

Mission Driven.
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Quality Care.

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Joyce and Florence during BBQ Event

Grace Hall Memory Care

When our mom suffered a stroke that left her with vascular dementia, we searched for a facility with a memory unit. We realized that what makes a place outstanding is not a fancy exterior appearance, but rather a staff of dedicated, caring individuals. Grace Hall at the Gilbert Residence is such a place. We feel we have found a precious gem—a safe, comfortable home for mom. We have become part of the Grace Hall family.

- Bruce and Joyce Jonik

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GilbertResidence.com - (734) 482.9498

Recycle Your Evergreens!

CITY OF ANN ARBOR MICHIGAN

Free Drop-Off Sites
From **Dec. 15, 2012** to **Jan. 31, 2013**
A2 City residents may drop-off undecorated evergreen trees at four Ann Arbor locations.

1. **The Drop-Off Station parking lot** at 2950 E. Ellsworth near Platt Road is available 24/7 for Christmas tree drop-off during this time period.

The following park locations are open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for Christmas tree drop-off. Trees will be chipped weekly.

2. **West Park parking lot** off Chapin near W. Huron
3. **Gallup Boat Launch parking lot,** 3000 Fuller Road, near Huron River Drive
4. **Olson Park parking lot,** 1515 Dhu Varren Road, near Pontiac Trail

Residents may also cut and bundle bare trees or place branches in a compost cart for compost collection, which resumes in April.

No Christmas tree pickups will be provided during winter 2012-2013

a2gov.org/compost ~ 99-GREEN

Classifieds

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Ariens 24-inch 2-stage electric start snowblower. Used 10 hours, must sell. (734) 455–7683.

Entertainment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

★ CLASSICAL HARP MUSIC ★
Live harp music for any occasion.
Deborah Gabrion, (734) 417–6969

Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Piano Lessons. Double degreed in music education. Played 58 years, taught for 30. I am patient and positive. Call for a free lesson and chat. Near Ellsworth. (734) 646–2740.

PIANO LESSONS—Your home, all levels. Experienced, perceptive teacher. DMA U-M. Info: (734) 482–4663.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD
for referrals to qualified professional piano teachers. All levels and ages, 665–5346. aaaptg.googlepages.com.

PIANO LESSONS All Ages & Levels
Master's degree UM School of Music 20 years professional experience. Reasonable fee. Flexible schedule. Marian Stolar Patin. **(734) 761–7384.**

PIANO LESSONS AGE 5 & UP
Prof. piano teacher, U-M Music School grad. Member of Piano Teachers Guild. Visit my website: www.McPianoLady.com. Mary Ann McCulloch, (734) 604–0942. Email: mcpianolady@aol.com.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Place Your Classified Ad Today!

To advertise, email, fax, or mail your ad to the address below.
Rates are $7 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion (two line minimum).
Ads will run in the next open issue.

Mail, email, or fax your ad to:
Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds
2390 Winewood Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Office: (734) 769-3175, Fax: (734) 769-3375,
E-mail: classifieds@aaobserver.com

Please include payment by check, cash, Visa, Mastercard, or American Express.

We reserve the right the reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

Climate Control Indoor Storage
490 S. Maple, Ann Arbor. Next to Kroger.
662–5262. www.ccindoorstorage.com

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 87? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate to spend at an Ann Arbor Observer advertiser of your choice. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Health

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Ann Arbor Hypnotherapy
www.annarborhypnotherapy.com
(760) 710–1804

SANDYA Spiritual Counseling, Healing, and Development. (734) 206–1945.

Home

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

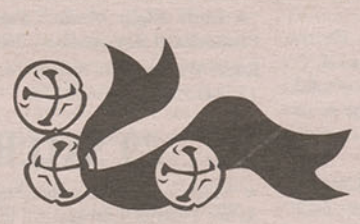
Professional Premium Handyman *Plus*
Since 1995 Licensed & Insured
Robert@HelpMeCLE.com (734) 368–0114
www.HelpMeCLE.com

Housecleaning with the professional touch. Great references. (734) 717–2170.

Professional & Affordable Housekeeper.
Call A Helpful Hand, (734) 975–4229.
Bonded and insured.

*** Need Experienced Painters? ***
Painting in Ann Arbor for over 15 years. Fully insured. (734) 657–8667. References. BLT@umich.edu. A2PAINTING.COM

★AFFORDABLE HANDYMAN ★
Carpentry ★ Plumbing ★ Electrical
Kitchens ★ Baths ★ Basements
Firewood★Mixed Hardwood★Delivered
Quality Work ★ Attention To Detail
Call Bill (734) 262–4500.



Handyman: $30 per hour. Drywall, painting, furniture repair, fix leaks, repair outlets, etc. Jared at (734) 327–1993 or jdwarshuis@gmail.com.

Handyman: Electrical, plumbing, free estimate. **(734) 747–0954.**

HOUSECLEANING: Thorough, spotless and efficient regular or one-time service. The holidays are coming, let me help you get your house ready! (734) 483–2229.

Outdoors

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Gardening Services
Fall garden and leaf clean up. Call Craig
(734) 434–4661.

Photography

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

★ WEDDINGS ★ PORTRAITS ★
More than 10 years
of photography experience.
www.cibelenewman.com
(734) 417–8946

Real Estate

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Homes for Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

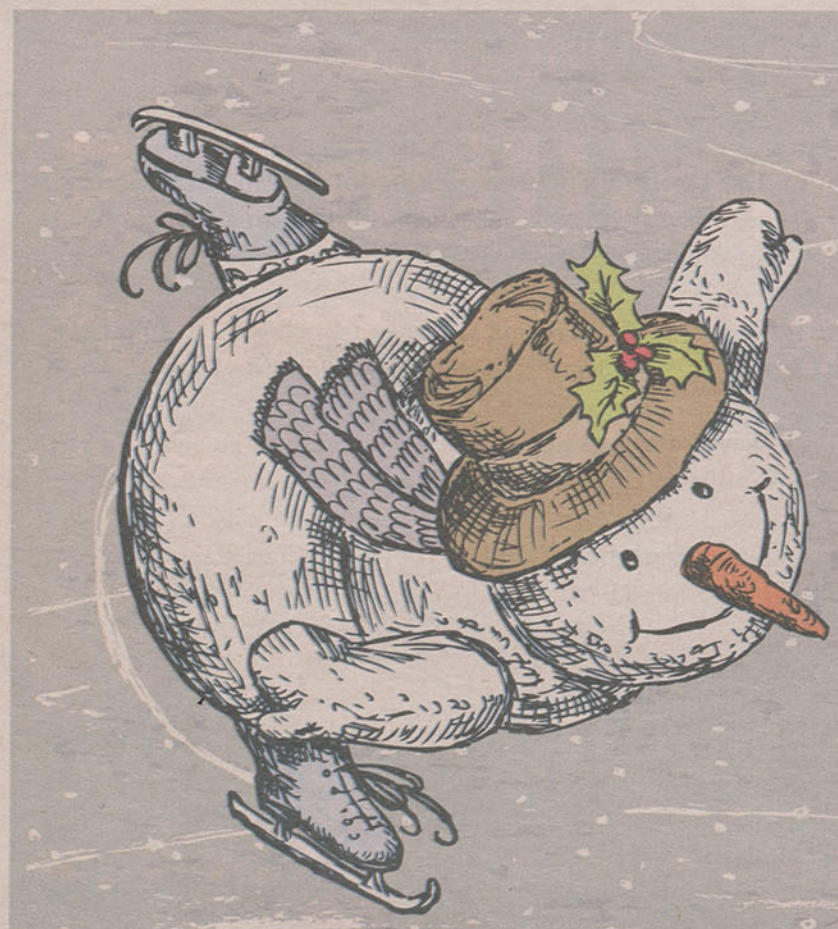
Beautiful 2-bedroom condo in the heart of Livonia. 1½ bath, fireplace, vaulted ceiling, den (or 3rd bedroom), 1-car garage. Lease: $1,300/month. Buy: $120,000. Call (313) 819–1561.

For Rent

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Beautiful 2-bedroom condo in the heart of Livonia. 1½ bath, fireplace, vaulted ceiling, den (or 3rd bedroom), 1-car garage. Lease: $1,300/month. Buy: $120,000. Call (313) 819–1561.

Best of both worlds on this **2.48 acres with artistic mid-century modern 2,450 sq. ft. home.** Studio-workshop and farm. Zoned AG. Solar, wood stove, FP, hoop house–organic gardens and small livestock outbuildings-aviaries. Scio Valley. Close to everything yet in country setting. $379,000. (734) 761–2967 or angelamadaras@gmail.com.



Warmest Wishes
this Holiday Season
from your friends at the
Ann Arbor Observer

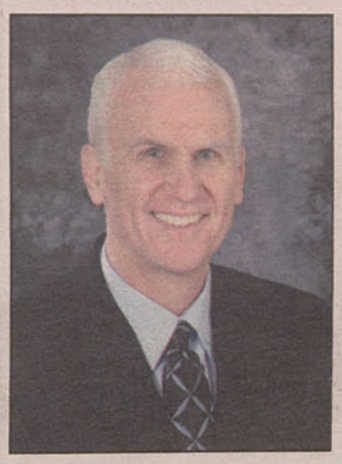
PHOTO: J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Real Estate

Residential and Commercial Properties
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

PHOTO: J. ADRIAN WYLIE

EUROPEAN-INSPIRED STONE AND STUCCO TWO-STORY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF KERRYTOWN , WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE TO EVERYTHING ANN ARBOR HAS TO OFFER!— Elegantly appointed and filled with natural light, the gracious two-story living room has a wood-burning fireplace, walls of windows and hardwood floors. Heart-of-the-house chef's kitchen has mahogany inset cabinets, granite countertops and stainless Gaggenau/Subzero appliances. Upstairs study/library loft, master suite, guest suite and laundry. Walkout lower level has exercise area and full bath. $699,000. MLS 3207305.



BILL FLOOD
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www.howardhanna.com
(734) 646-7333

Howard Hanna

1898 W. Stadium • Ann Arbor

GRASS LAKE – Spectacular 98.5-acre estate featuring gorgeous grounds, horse setup, ponds, and custom-built home. This is a truly one-of-a-kind property perfect for the outdoor enthusiast. Land includes large pond, pasture area, woods, and some farm land. Home includes 5-bedroom, 3-bath, two ½-bath, grand proportions, indoor pool, and shooting range. $1,599,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This stunning home was custom-built for the 2008 Showcase of Homes Tour. You will be impressed by quality of materials and craftsmanship. This home rests on 7.5 peaceful acres that includes a scenic pond, covered bridge, in-ground pool, and 60' x 100' barn. Interior features include two-story great room, chef's kitchen, luxury first-floor master suite, sunroom, den, and incredible finished basement. $1,275,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home is one of the finest custom-built homes you will ever see. Incredible craftsmanship. Nestled on a wooded 2.4 acre lot. Extensive landscaping, patio, and putting green. Home has every amenity including a two-story great room, sunroom, dream kitchen, luxury bath, and the ultimate finished basement. $1,195,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This is one of the finest homes you will find. Incredible 5-bedroom, 4-bath, two ½-bath, custom-built home on a premier wooded setting backing to a gorgeous stream. Including two-story family room with wall of glass, gourmet kitchen, sunroom, den, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement with rec space, bar, and home theater. $819,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Peaceful 4.5 acre country estate just minutes to US-23 and Ann Arbor. Incredible custom-built home built to the highest standards of quality with upgraded materials and workmanship throughout. Features include great wrap around porch, huge deck, 4 car garage, dream kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite, great room with two-story stone fireplace, and luxury master suite. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Real Estate One

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734-662-8600 or **734-476-7100**

HAMBURG TOWNSHIP – Dramatic 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built home on a gorgeous wooded site in Winans Woods. This home is loaded with all the current features and amenities you've been hoping for. Interior features two-story great room with stone fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite counters, luxury master suite with dream bath, and finished walkout basement with 10' ceilings. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEWPORT HILLS – Stately 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on a quiet wooded lot. Features include extensive hardwood floors, 9' first-floor ceilings, large kitchen with granite counter tops, open family room with vaulted ceiling, luxury master suite with sitting room, and great kids' bedrooms. $549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Stately 5-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built colonial on a gorgeous 2-acre site in Quail Ridge. The setting is perfect with great landscaping, large deck, and spacious backyard. Home is a gorgeous traditional colonial on the exterior with incredible size and proportion throughout. Features include open kitchen with granite counter tops, open family room, large first-floor master suite, den, formal living room and dining room, great kids' bedrooms, and finished walkout basement with large rec room, bar, and bath. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BRIARHILL – Very well done 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath custom-built colonial on a private double lot in one of Ann Arbor's most popular neighborhood. Great setting with large paver patio, extensive landscaping, and mature trees. Home has been completely redone and features maple kitchen with granite, open living area, and luxury master suite. $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HIGHPOINTE AT STONEBRIDGE – Gorgeous, custom-built 3-bedroom, 3 ½-bath detached condo. This unit is loaded with all the current features and amenities you've been hoping for. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling, Brazilian cherry floors, custom kitchen with granite counters, den luxury first-floor master suite, and a finished basement with large rec room, bar study, bedroom, and bath. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK - Perfect 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bathroom home in one of Saline Schools most popular neighborhoods. Great yard with extensive landscaping and large brick paver patio. The interior of this home has all the features you've been hoping for. Living room with vaulted ceiling, oversized maple kitchen, open family room with fireplace, luxury master suite, jack-n-jill bath, and private suite. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – Custom built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home on 11-acres of the most beautiful land you will find. This home is your own private sanctuary surrounded by nature, total privacy, and just minutes to downtown Manchester. Home features two-story great room, open kitchen with custom cabinets, luxury first floor master bedroom, and finished walkout basement. $459,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Perfect 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of the area's most sought after subs. Great setting with mature trees, extensive landscaping, and great deck. The interior features spacious kitchen with granite counter tops, open family room with fireplace, formal living room and dining room, first-floor den, luxury master suite, and nice-sized kids' bedrooms. Saline Schools. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Very sharp custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home on a gorgeous 2-acre completely private lot in Quail Ridge. Exceptional setting features extensive landscaping, mature trees, and large deck to enjoy summer evenings. The interior is perfect and includes great room with vaulted ceiling, large kitchen, sunroom, den, luxury first-floor master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. $419,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAKE FOREST – Move-in ready 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Features large backyard, Trex deck, and great privacy. The interior features extensive hardwood floors, two-story family room, open kitchen, flex-use den or living room, one of the nicest master suites you will see, and finished basement. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LIBERTY GLEN – Sharp 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial in one of the Westside's most sought after neighborhoods. Great lot features large patio, extensive landscaping, and great privacy. The interior is move-in ready with many recent updates. Features included remodeled kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, open family room with fireplace, formal living room and dining room, large master suite, and finished basement with large rec room. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LINCOLN SCHOOLS – Spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on 5 peaceful acres. Hard to find home on a paved road just minutes to I-94 and US-23. Great yard with lots of open grassy area, pole barn, and large deck. Home features large living room, open kitchen, family room with fireplace, and nice sized bedrooms. $169,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Perfectly maintained 3-bedroom, 1½-bath brick ranch on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has been completely redone and features new roof, new paint, and gleaming hardwood floors throughout. Additional features include 2½-car garage, storage shed, and partially finished basement. $149,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Matt Dejanovich has been a realtor serving the Ann Arbor area for 25 years and has been a resident of the community his entire life. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his clients.

No assistants! Not one.
When you hire Matt, you get Matt.

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Matt@IsellAnnArbor.com

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath ranch on an incredible 1.1-acre site in Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhood. This site is special with extensive landscaping, mature trees, and one of the largest backyards your will see. Home is substantially updated with great spaces throughout. Every room features oversized windows that bring the outdoors in. Open kitchen, master bedroom addition, and partially finished basement. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LOCH ALPINE – This 4-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built home overlooking the golf course at Ann Arbor Country Club is simply stunning. You will be impressed! Great golf course views and one of the nicest backyard patios you will see. The interior is gorgeous and features great room with vaulted ceiling, cherry kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, family room with fireplace, luxury first-floor master suite, and full finished basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR - Incredible estate property just minutes to Ann Arbor, U-M, and hospitals. This property is breathtaking. This custom-built home rests in the heart of mature forest. Enjoy complete privacy and harmony with nature with the convenience of a premier location. The 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home features soaring ceilings, walls of glass, and extensive upgrades. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MATTHAEI FARM – This stunning 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home rests on a 2.6 acre natural oasis in an Ann Arbor loved neighborhood. Incredible grounds feature ample plantings, mature trees, and complete privacy. Featuring living room with vaulted ceiling, cherry kitchen, open family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MATTHAEI FARMS – Stunning 3-bedroom, 2-bath custom-built ranch on a completely private 1.5-acre setting. Gorgeous grounds that are highlighted by mature trees, large deck, gardens, and one of the nicest screened porches you will see. The interior of this home has been completely redone and includes all hardwood floors, great room with fireplace and wall of glass, custom kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – TRAVIS POINTE – Stunning 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on the #13 fairway at Travis. Enjoy some of the best golf course views anywhere from the wonderfully updated home. Features include great outdoor living space, remodeled kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counter tops, oversized family with full glass wall view of the course, great formal spaces, 2 dens, and nice master suite. Perfect décor throughout. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – TRAVIS POINTE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath all brick home on the #17 fairway at Travis Pointe. Incredible setting with great views of the golf course from the large decks and screened porch. The interior of this home features two-story great room with floor to ceiling brick fireplace, spacious kitchen, family room, den, luxury master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LAKE FOREST – This 5-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home is one of the finest homes in the neighborhood. Perfect house on perfect lot. Great setting backing to protected woods with extensive landscaping, deck, and the nicest screened porch you will see. Interior is sharp and includes great room with 2-story ceiling, huge kitchen with granite, luxury first-floor master, and full finished basement. $585,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100**.

BURNS PARK – This nicely updated 3-bedroom, 1 ½-bath brick colonial has Burns Park as it's front yard. Stately home with great backyard, large patio, offering nice privacy. The interior is loaded with charm and character including all hardwood floors, maple kitchen, large living room with built-ins, formal dining, large master bedroom, and remodeled baths. $499,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Market Update – December 2012

The good news keeps pouring in. Recently released statistic show our average sale price up 9.3% compared to the same period in 2011. My homes are selling at a record pace. October 2012 marked the single best October in my 25 years of selling real estate. My listings are receiving a great response and many are selling in hours, days, or weeks. Now is a great time to start talking about a move in 2013. With our strong economy and low interest rates the opportunity has never been better.

My results set a benchmark for individual agents working in the greater Ann Arbor Market Area. If you are considering Buying or Selling my experience, results, and professional approach speak for themselves:

#1

Individual producing real estate agent in Michigan
Individual producing real estate agent in Washtenaw County
Agent in Saline Schools
Agent in Pittsfield Township

Over $38 million in sales in 2011
Over 100 homes sold and closed in 2011
Over $600 million in career sales volume

SELLERS – My listings continue to receive the maximum exposure possible both in print advertising and on the Internet. Please look and compare. My marketing program works, see all the SOLD banners.

BUYERS – My buyers, personally represented by me, have been successful in finding some of the BEST homes and the BEST prices in our market. The issues of financing, short sales, and bank owned homes is more complicated than ever. It makes sense to be represented by a proven professional.

Call or Email today for a no-obligation private consultation. 734-476-7100 or Matt@ISellAnnArbor.com

BARTON HILLS – Experience an incredible setting in Ann Arbor's most exclusive neighborhood. This 3 ½-acre wooded parcel features rolling land, great privacy, and ample wildlife. Home is a mid-century contemporary with great architectural significance but in need of major updating. Two-bedroom, 2-bath, home with very large great room, nice master suite, and tons of windows. $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WINES ELEMENTARY – This sharp 5-bedroom, 3-bath, two-story with contemporary flair rests on one of the prettiest acre lots you will find walking distance to Skyline High School. Incredible setting with mature trees, extensive landscaping, large deck, and hot tub. The inside is highlighted by one of the nicest kitchens you will see. Cherry cabinets, granite counters, and high-end appliances. Other features include large great room, den, nice master suite, and finished basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE - This stunning 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two ½-bath former builder's model home is completely loaded inside and out with quality features and upgrades. This home lives great and features two-story foyer and family room, kitchen with 11' ceilings, cherry cabinets, and granite counters, den, oversized trim and moldings, luxury master suite, and finished walk-out basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP – Rock solid 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a 1.25-acre lot that is just GORGEOUS! This home is convenient to everything, just minutes to UM, St. Joe, Arborland, and US-23. Lot features mature trees and deep drop off the rear with great views. Home features large living areas and walkout basement. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP – Country Paradise! Comforable 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom ranch on 18 acres of the most gorgeous land you will find. The property is heavily wooded with towering mature trees, a flowing stream, and lots of wildlife. Perfect property for an outdoorsman or nature enthusiast. Home features family room with fireplace, open kitchen, formal living room and dining room, nice master, and full basement. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Hard to find 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath ranch on a GORGEOUS 2-acre lot just minutes to downtown Saline. The setting is incredible with mature trees, large deck, and a ravine view. You won't find better. This rock-solid home features great room with brick fireplace, large eat it kitchen, nice master bedroom, and finished walkout basement with large rec room. $274,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GREENHILLS CONDO – Completed updated 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo in one of the most desired complexes in Ann Arbor. This unit is in a nice quiet location just minutes from UM and all hospitals. Extensive updates included hardwood floors, trim, and paint. You will love it. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MILAN – Newer 4-bedroom, 3-bath ranch in Uptown Village. Enjoy this incredible convenient location just minutes to US-23. This great house was custom-built, and is in great move-in condition. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open kitchen with large eat-in area, spacious master suite, nice kids' bedrooms, and finished basement with rec room, bedroom, and bath. $145,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI – Striking ranch on a very quiet street just a short walk to Depot Town. Wonderful fenced backyard with large deck and screened porch. The home has many updates and improvements including open kitchen with granite counter tops, large living room, and spacious bedrooms. $139,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – True handyman special! 100+ year old farmhouse on a 1.35-acres, just outside the city. Land has mature trees and is highlighted by a large barn and detached garage that is great for storage, hobbies, or home business. Home is in need of significant repair. $125,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

UM MEDICAL CAMPUS – Unbelievable low price for this duplex with two 1-bedroom apartments near the hospital. Both units are rented. This is a great property for someone looking for their first rental property. Easy rent. $109,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OPEN SUNDAY
December 9, 2012 1–4PM

115 W. LIBERTY
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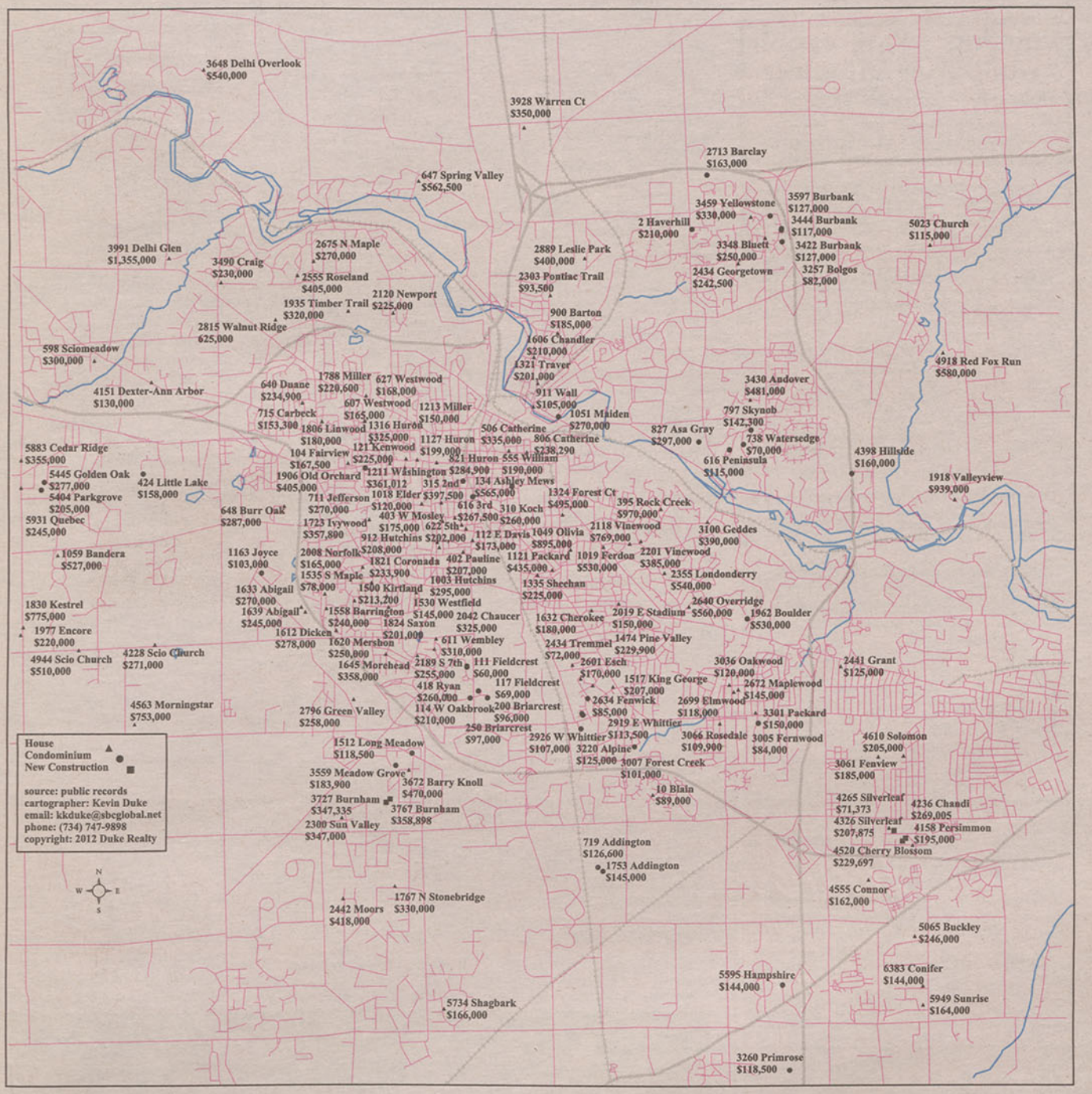
OCTOBER 2012

HOME SALES



The number of single-family homes sold in the city of Ann Arbor jumped 20 percent in the first ten months of 2012 compared to the first ten months of 2011. That adds up to 781 single-family homes sold so far this year versus the 651 during the same time period of 2011. The big increase in sales undercuts one theory floated earlier in the year that suggested a shortage of homes for sale was driving prices up locally.

The average sales price slipped $2,000, from $266,000 to $264,000. But with such averages, the devil is in the details. A breakdown of sales tracked by the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors' MLS indicates that average prices did not drop at all once sales prices were recalculated to reflect the *size* of the homes sold. The right-hand column of our table tracks the percentage change in the price per square foot of living space—the most useful measure of the market's changing prices. By this gauge, home prices actually rose 10 percent in the city.

The most astonishing example of how size matters is demonstrated by homes measuring 2,000–2,499 square feet. Collectively, their average selling price dropped $33,000. When adjusted for size, however, the loss is transformed into a 12 percent *increase* in the average selling price per square foot.

Breaking out single-family home sales by price per square foot graphically illustrates where the market played favorites. For example, homes in the 2,500–2,999 square foot category saw their price per foot jump 19 percent—far exceeding the 1 percent blip pocketed by the sellers of homes over 3,000 square feet.

—Kevin Duke

Jan - October Single-Family Square Feet	2012 Sales #	2012 Average Price	2011/2012 Price Change	2012 Average Price/SQ FT	2011/2012 $ Change Per SQ FT	2011/2012 % Change Per SQ FT
600-999	106	$137,000	$0	$155	$3	2%
1,000-1,249	158	$183,000	$8,000	$163	$15	10%
1,250-1,499	136	$221,000	$13,000	$163	$24	16%
1,500-1,749	102	$254,000	$12,000	$157	$15	10%
1,750-1,999	95	$278,000	$28,000	$148	$9	7%
2,000-2,499	99	$336,000	-$33,000	$152	$19	12%
2,500-2,999	49	$453,000	$17,000	$168	$30	19%
3,000+	36	$686,000	-$23,000	$191	$1	1%
All Ann Arbor	781	$264,000	-$2,000	$160	$15	10%

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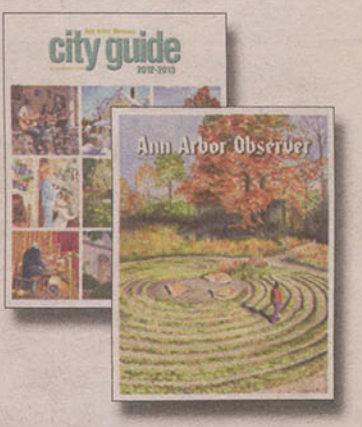

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Back Page

i spy

Cherries in Winter

by Sally Bjork

"Love those lions!!" writes Joyce Mallory about November's feature. "I've always found it interesting that such a regal statue was placed at a very ordinary location," comments Ellen Abramson. It's "one of the lions that flank the entrance to Gross Rd. in Pittsfield, MI," offers Sharon Mason from Sylvania, Ohio. They're "oddly placed," says Shannon Kohlitz; "in the shadow of U.S. 23" adds Neal Laurence. "I've wondered what they're guarding," writes Alan Traxler. Pamela Sinclair suggests "A park? A grand estate? The entrance to Oz?"

Mister Beni relays some interesting tidbits about these lions, some obtained from the Observer's "Question Corner" in April 2006. "The lion … is one of several purchased in Grayling during the late 1920s or early 1930s by dairy farmer Frank E. King (1876–1963) and his son Forest E. King (1913–2003) who installed a pair of them at their 'Carpenter's Corner' (Packard & Carpenter) farm during the 1930s, directly across from their Gross Road farmhouse." They also placed others around town, but these are the only ones known to remain.

Our winner, drawn at random from thirty-one correct entries, is Mary Keeley. She will enjoy her $25 gift certificate at The Original Cottage Inn.

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above to identify the scene, then follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received 116 entries correctly identifying the Fake Ad for Pleasant Aegean Holidays on page 70 of the November issue.

"I quickly found the Fake Ad for November 2012," wrote Bob Hayes. "I was stationed in Athens, Greece during 1972–1974 with the United States Navy. I enjoyed so many sites and islands along with the wonderful hospitality of the Greek people. When I saw last month's winner, Kathleen Kosobud, I easily thought that combination of letters might be used within a Greek fake ad. As I thumbed backwards through the Observer, lo and behold, on page 70, top left, I found the ad for Pleasant Aegean Holidays. … Thank you for making me smile and remember a great tour …"

For summer lovin' any time of year...
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Pleasant Aegean Holidays

"It's the Pleasant Aegean Holidays ad," Renee Dean wrote. "I knew that this was the Fake Ad, but I had originally thought Kristin Labby (who was quoted on the Back Page) was the winner … I now believe I know all of the services offered by people who advertise in the Observer. Advertising in the Observer works! (Especially when I'm looking for the Fake Ad!!)"

Our winner was Linda Thibodeau of Marysville. She's taking her gift certificate to Grizzly Peak Brewing.

To enter this month's contest, find the Fake Ad and follow the instructions in the box below. The Fake Ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.

To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy" to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Fax: (734) 769–3375. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received by noon on December 10 will be eligible for this month's random drawing. Winners will receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

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Events at a Glance

Daily ***Events*** *listings begin on p.* ***51. Films:*** *p.* ***63. Galleries:*** *p.* ***57. Nightspots*** *begin on p.* ***48.***

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- Kerrytown Concert House "Annual Croissant Concert," Dec. 1
- Ann Arbor Civic Theatre "Civic Open" vocal competition, Dec. 1
- University Choral Union *Messiah,* Dec. 1 & 2
- Ann Arbor TubaChristmas, Dec. 2
- Los Angeles Piano Quartet, Dec. 2
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 2
- Bolcom and Morris (cabaret), Dec. 5
- Soprano Caroline Helton, tenor Scott Piper, & pianist Martin Katz, Dec. 5
- "An Organist's Christmas" (First United Methodist Church), Dec. 7
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops, Dec. 7
- 16th Annual Evening of Sacred Song, Dec. 8
- Measure for Measure, Dec. 8
- Chaverim B'Shirim choir, Dec. 9
- Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, Dec. 9
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 9
- Ann Arbor Grail Singers, Dec. 9
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 11
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 14 & 15
- 48th Annual Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 15
- Dexter Community Orchestra, Dec. 16
- Ypsilanti Community Choir & Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Dec. 18

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

See ***Nightspots,*** *p. 48, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs*

- Boom Tic Boom (avant-garde jazz), Dec. 2
- Band of Horses (indie rock), Dec. 3
- The Yellow Room Gang (singer-songwriter collective), Dec. 5 & 6
- Oblivion Project (tango), Dec. 6
- Cairn to Cairn (Celtic-folk), Dec. 7
- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 7
- Lisa Pappas (singer-songwriter), Dec. 8
- Diane Reeves Quarter (jazz), Dec. 8
- Dave Bennett Quartet (Dixieland & swing), Dec. 11
- Donald Sinta Quartet, Dec. 12
- Global Jazz Project, Dec. 13
- Eric Vloeimans & Florian Weber (jazz), Dec. 14
- Glenn Tucker's "A Jazz Nativity," Dec. 15
- The Killers (postpunk indie rock), Dec. 20
- Robert Spalding Newcomb (guitarist-sitarist), Dec. 21

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *La Clemenza di Tito* (Metropolitan Opera live broadcast), Dec. 1
- *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Saline Area Players), Dec. 1 & 2
- *The Nutcracker* (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 1 & 2
- *From Such Great Heights* (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 1 & 2
- *Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings* (Encore), every Thurs.–Sat. through Dec. 23
- *Wolf Cry Wolf* (New Theatre Project), Dec. 1, 2, 7–9, & 14–16
- *Superior Donuts* (Purple Rose), Dec. 1, 2, 5–9, & 11–15
- *A Little Night Music* (Performance Network), every Thurs.–Sun. through Dec. 30
- *Wisbom* (U-M Musical Theatre), Dec. 1 & 2
- Fireside Festival of New Works (Performance Network), Dec. 2–5
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (U-M Theatre), Dec. 6–9
- *Iolanthe* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 6–9
- *The Hollow* (PTD Productions), Dec. 6–9 & 13–15
- *The Nutcracker* (Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan), Dec. 7–9
- *Firebird* (EMU Dance), Dec. 7
- *Un Ballo in Maschera* (Metropolitan Opera live broadcast), Dec. 8
- *Aida* (Skyline High), Dec. 14–16
- *The Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 14–16
- *Aida* (Metropolitan Opera live broadcast), Dec. 15
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 16

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Moody McCarthy, Dec. 1
- Comic Jen Kober, Dec. 6–8
- Comic Lisa Lampanelli, Dec. 8
- Comic Al Jackson, Dec. 13–15
- Comic Mark Knope, Dec. 20–22
- Comic Reese Waters, Dec. 27–29
- Comic Rocky LaPorte, Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Dexter "Home for the Holidays," Dec. 1
- Chelsea "25th Annual Hometown Holiday," Dec. 1
- "Christmas on the Farm" (Waterloo Area Farm), Dec. 1 & 2
- German Family Christmas, Dec. 1, 2, 8, & 9
- Concordia University Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 1 & 2
- Kerrytown Holiday Greens & Gift Market, Dec. 7
- "1930s Christmas on the Farm" (Saline Area Historical Society), Dec. 8 & 9
- Jewish Cultural Society Hanukkah Celebration, Dec. 9
- Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas, Dec. 9
- "An Old Fashioned Christmas Extravaganza Show and Sale," Dec. 14

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Cultural critic Dan Savage, Dec. 2
- Novelist Madeline Miller, Dec. 3
- Novelist Barbara Shapiro, Dec. 4
- Novelist Amitav Ghosh, Dec. 6 & 7
- Poets Megan Levad & Francine J. Harris, Dec. 12
- Poet Nate Marshall, Dec. 17

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *White as Snow, Red as Blood: The Story of Snow White* (EMU Theatre), Dec. 1, 2, & 6–9
- Billy Jonas, Dec. 2
- *A Christmas Carol* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 6, 7, & 9
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing Along with Santa," Dec. 15
- *The Fisherman and His Wife* (Performance Network Children's Theater), Dec. 22

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "Celebrating Tagore: Translations Through Music, Dance, and Poetry" (U-M School of Music), Dec. 6

DECEMBER 2012

www.art-design.umich.edu

PENNY W. STAMPS
SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN

Dec. 5 ~ ongoing
Art Tours: University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospitals

Melanie Manos, Stamps lecturer, leads tours of Mott's extensive art collection, including works by many Stamps faculty and alumni.

TOURS: 1st Wednesday of every month @ noon, and the 3rd Wednesday of the Month @ 5pm.

For details and to reserve a space rsvp to melmanos@umich.edu

Dec. 6
Penny Stamps Speaker Series: United in Anger/Jim Hubbard

UNITED IN ANGER: A HISTORY OF ACT UP is a feature-length documentary combining startling archival footage and insightful interviews from the ACT UP Oral History Project to explore ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) from a grassroots perspective – how a small group of men and women of all races and classes, came together to change the world and save each other's lives. Before there was Occupy Wall Street or the Arab Spring, there was ACT UP.

SCREENING/FILMMAKER Q&A: 5:10

Michigan Theater
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor

Dec. 1 ~ Dec. 21
Exhibition: First Encounters

Curated by Stamps Dean Guna Nadarajan, this exhibition features a selection of objects from the workspaces of Stamps faculty members. Each faculty member was invited to submit an object or thing that constitutes an essential part of any meaningful introduction to the faculty member's work. Through this invitation, this exhibition hopes to highlight the conceptual, historical, technical, spatial, personal and sometimes even incidental contexts and processes of creative work.

Work • Ann Arbor
306 S. State, Ann Arbor

Nov. 30 ~ Dec. 21
Exhibition: Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design **Student Exhibition**

A juried exhibition featuring the work in all media from Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design undergraduates.

OPENING RECEPTION:
DEC. 4, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Slusser Gallery
1st floor 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor

Dec. 1 ~ Feb. 1
Exhibition: All in the Family: **Improvisational Architecture in the work of Beverly Buchanan**

Curated by Stamps Professor Marianetta Porter and with a catalog design by Stamps Professor Franc Nunoo-Quarcoo, this exhibition features the sculptural work of Beverly Buchanan, an African-American artist whose work explores Southern vernacular architecture. Her work is widely collected and can be found in several major museums.

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